

Hafa Adai!

Committee that will probe Propst will swear in members Friday. PAGE 2  
Kilili to aid CPA's application for federal subsidy. PAGE 3

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 248

[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2021

[www.facebook.com/saipantribune](http://www.facebook.com/saipantribune)

## Torres sues to quash subpoena

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The unconcealed animosity between Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee spilled into the court yesterday,



Birnrich



Horrey

after Torres snubbed the JGO subpoena that commanded him to appear before the committee yesterday, provoking the committee to hold him in contempt and prompting Torres to ask the court to quash the subpoena.

Torres and the Office of the Governor filed yesterday afternoon a lawsuit against

the JGO Committee over its decision to hold him in contempt. See TORRES on Page 4

### BEACH ROAD ACCIDENT

Police officers look at the upside down, pink sports car after an accident yesterday afternoon along Beach Road across the street from the former Hakubotan duty-free shop. *Saipan Tribune* was told yesterday by a Department of Public Safety officer at the scene that one man was found at the accident site, and that the man was the sole person in the vehicle. The man was responsive but was unable to answer the officer's questions. JOSHUA SANTOS

Story on Page 4



## JGO Committee holds Torres in contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental

### RELATED NEWS

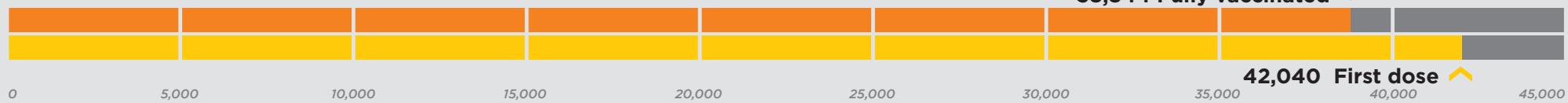
■ 'What is needed now is for us to work together'  
PAGE 9

Operations Committee voted yesterday to hold Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in contempt after he failed to appear before the committee as "commanded"

in a subpoena.

In a video posted in the Office of the Governor's Facebook account and released to media partners about an hour before the JGO Committee See JGO on Page 4

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



### INSIDE



### BUSINESS

California is bringing back a rule requiring people to wear masks indoors as virus cases rise.

PAGE 11



### NATION

Residents of Kentucky counties could be without heat, water or electricity for weeks or longer.

PAGE 12



### LIFE & STYLE

Time magazine has named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its Person of the Year for 2021.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

# Local

## Committee that will probe Propst will swear in members Friday

### » Public allowed to issue statements at the meeting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The newly formed House of Representatives Special Standing Committee on Official Conduct and Ethics that

will look into the ethics complaint against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) will swear in its members this Friday.

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Ethics Committee, informed House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and all committee members yesterday about their first meeting in the House chamber at 1pm.

Aside from swearing-in the committee's members, Manglona said they are also going to adopt the committee rules.

Anyone who would like to issue statements will be allowed as part of the meeting's agenda.

The six other committee members are Reps. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Jo-

seph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Leila C. Staffler (D-Saipan).

Citing official House rules, Villagomez earlier said "each member [of the committee] shall make an affirmation, under oath, that he will perform his duties...and...will not disclose confidential information acquired by him as a result of his participation in the work of the committee."

Propst has denied the allegations. He earlier also stated

that Villagomez had spoken to him about the formation of the Ethics Committee and that he welcomes it.

### Guma Hustisia closed for 4 days

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Supreme Court has ordered the temporary closure of the Guma Hustisia, citing the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in the CNMI.

According to Chief Justice Alejandro Castro, the Guma Hustisia will remain closed for the rest of the week starting yesterday in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"In the past 40 days, the CNMI has experienced a surge in confirmed COVID-19 positive cases, exhausting its healthcare system. Since Oct. 28, 2021, the CNMI has reported 1,617 new cases, and more specifically, since the beginning of December, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has reported 804 positive cases of COVID-19, which represents approximately 42% of all confirmed positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic," he said. "In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI, the court orders the temporary closure of Guma Hustisia from Tuesday, Dec. 14, until Friday, Dec. 17," he said.

Although the Guma Hustisia will be closed to the public, time-sensitive hearings will still be heard virtually.

"Bail, initial appearance, arraignment, family protection, emergency and time-sensitive hearings may be set through either videoconferencing or teleconferencing means. Judiciary staff will be teleworking until Friday. Managers and supervisors may call upon employees to report to the Guma Hustisia on an as-needed basis," he said.

Also, the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles' driver's license renewals, driver exams, and drivers testing services remain postponed and will be rescheduled until a later date.

The BMV currently only accepts document drop-off for vehicle and/or watercraft registration renewal from 8am to 10. Then, 2pm to 4pm is dedicated document pick-up.

BMV asks individuals to make payments at the CNMI Treasury on Capitol Hill, or Revenue and Tax in Dan Dan before turning in documents, as the DPS cashiers window operated by the Office of Finance remains closed.

**Personal Loan**  
As low as  
**4.99% APR\***  
Fixed for 5 Years

- Fixed-rate with predictable monthly payments
- Quick and easy application process

**A strong financial future.  
A loan that gets you there.  
It's all connected.**

Life's good when your financial world is under control. That's where a personal loan comes in. It's the easy way to take the stress out of higher-interest debt.

See a Customer Representative or visit [FHB.com](http://FHB.com)

  
**First Hawaiian Bank.**  
It all starts with yes.

Member FDIC  


\*Rates range from 4.99% Percentage Rate (APR) based on the specific characteristics of your credit application, including but not limited to evaluation of credit history and income verification for amounts over \$5,000, for approved personal loan applications received 11/1/2021 to 12/31/2021 (\$2,500 minimum loan amount). For Guam residents only, loan terms greater than 35 months require a minimum loan amount of \$11,551. The APR shown is for a \$12,050.00 personal loan of 60 months with a monthly payment of \$227.29 and is based on best APR currently offered. Your actual APR may be higher than the Priority Banking Checking Account Level 3. A one-time documentation preparation fee of \$50.00 applies to all loans under this promotion and will be added to the principal balance. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer does not apply to business or real estate loans. Also, the proceeds of the loan cannot be used to pay off any existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans, or lines-of-credit.

### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2021-044	Administrative Specialist	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 per annum- Ungraded	Dec. 15, 2021	Jan. 05, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at [www.nmhccgov.net](http://www.nmhccgov.net).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhccgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhccgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhccgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhccgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/  
**JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

## Kilili to aid CPA's application for federal subsidy

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has extended his support and assured the Commonwealth Ports Authority that he will back them if they decide to apply for the Department of Transporta-

tion's Small Community Air Service Development Program, which could provide funding to CPA for air carrier revenue guarantees, marketing programs, and other support for improving air service to Rota and Tinian.

In response to CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds' letter

to the U.S. DOT requesting that it extend eligibility for federal subsidy to the CNMI, Sablan informed them that he would back the application once CPA submits the application for SCASDP.

"Upon receipt of your letter with your request that I kick-start federal assistance,

Joshua Tenorio offer their condolences and pray for those who will not be able to celebrate the holidays with their families due to COVID-19.

"With any amount of reprieve during this pandemic, the harsh reality is we will still

congressional staff contacted the Department of Transportation and confirmed the Commonwealth has never submitted SCASDP applications for any of the three airports operated by CPA, even though you mention the program in your letter as having the potential to improve air service and lower costs for Rota and Tinian. So,

I respectfully recommend that

you apply for these federal funds and share your application with me, so I can offer my support to the Department of Transportation," he said.

Sablan noted that, although this specific program is competitive, the CNMI should still try as Rota and Tinian meet the criteria eligibility.

"I recognize that applying for grant funds takes time

and resources. And, because SCASDP is a competitive program, there is no guarantee of success. Nevertheless, Rota and Tinian meet the criteria for eligibility and CPA should at least try. In fiscal year 2019, 22 small communities like Rota and Tinian that do not receive sufficient air carrier service were

See **SUBSIDY** on Next Page

## Guam COVID-19 deaths at 269

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Guam's Joint Information Center in Guam has reported the island's two most recent COVID-19-related deaths, bringing the island's COVID-19-related death toll to 269.

According to JIC's Dec. 13 news release, Guam's 268th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 83-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive

for COVID-19 on Nov. 7 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Dec. 7.

The 269th was an unvaccinated 44-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Dec. 4 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Dec. 9. Included in the news release was a statement provided by Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. She and Guam Lt. Gov.

## First regional gout study in 50 years underway at UOG

A research team from the University of Guam, in collaboration with the University of Otago in New Zealand, is looking for individuals of CHamoru, other Micronesian, and Filipino ancestry to participate in a study on gout. The study seeks to analyze the role that genetics plays in having high levels in the blood of serum urate, a compound linked to gout and other metabolic conditions.

"Based off archeological and anthropological evidence, it seems that ancient Pacific Islanders and our Micronesian ancestors may have suffered from gout and other metabolic illnesses," said Tristan Paulino, a UOG alumni who is now a research associate on the study as a doctoral student at the University of Otago. "Given that our ancestors lived a more traditional and active lifestyle, it seems that diet, exercise, and lifestyle may not be the only factors that influence getting gout. One factor that has not been looked at in our population is the genetic factor."

The researchers will be looking at frequencies of known genetic markers that have been associated with gout and other conditions.

"Do Micronesians and Filipinos have these genes linked with gout? How prevalent are they? How do these genes impact those who have the disease? Answers to these ques-

tions will have implications on how we treat and manage the disease in Guam and throughout the region," Paulino said.

His interest in pursuing gout as the subject of his doctoral research stems from the fact that gout has been largely understudied in Micronesia and the Marianas—the last medical research on it being conducted

more than 50 years ago—yet it still afflicts many people in the region. Paulino will be working with UOG associate professor Frank Camacho, who holds a doctorate in biology and is serving as principal investigator on the study, and UOG professor Yvette Paulino, who holds a doctorate in epidemiology and is serving as co-investigator.

Interested participants can contact (671) 707-0492 or gout.research@triton.uog.edu to make an appointment.

Participants must have CHamoru, other Micronesian, or Filipino ancestry and be at least 18 years old. The study will involve completing a health information survey; providing blood pressure, weight, height, waist, and neck measurements; and providing a blood sample. Participants will be compensated with a \$20 gift certificate.

The study is funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi and has been approved by the UOG Institutional Review Board. (PR)

### » Research participants needed of CHamoru, other Micronesian, and Filipino ancestry



Paulino

## NEW STOCK JUST ARRIVED!



### FEATURES

- Never Rust Composite Bed
- Multi-information Display
- Touch Screen Monitor
- Heavy Duty Adjustable Tie-Down Cleats
- Rear Backup Camera
- Standard Toyota Safety Sense (Lane Departure Alert with Assist, Automatic High Beams, Pre-Collision System)

TMAX. Pre-Runner Access Cab as low as

**\$29,999\***



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.  
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose  
Saipan, MP 96950

Call 234-5911  
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm

Shop online at [AKsaipan.com](http://AKsaipan.com)



Let's Go Places

\*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for more details. Vehicle not exactly as shown. While supplies last.

# Car flips, turns turtle in Beach Road mishap

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A car seemingly lost control, veered off the road, and landed upside down on the beach yesterday afternoon

## JGO

*From Page 1*

meeting at 10:30am, Torres said he will not be appearing before the committee since the Executive Branch, which he heads, is a separate and equal branch of government under the Commonwealth Constitution. Several ours later, Torres sued to have the subpoena quashed.

In the video, Torres described the JGO Committee as “out-of-control,” with a simple agenda to impeach him.

“The Office of the Governor should not be and cannot be subordinated to the Legislature, let alone the overreaching acts of an out-of-control committee of the House of Representatives,” Torres said.

It was Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), who is the NMI Democratic Party’s gubernatorial candidate in 2022, who moved to hold Torres in contempt. Torres is seeking re-election under the NMI Republican Party.

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-

along Beach Road.

A Department of Public Safety officer at the scene, who preferred to not be named, said that one young man was found at the accident site, and that the man was the sole person

Saipan), who chairs the committee, and six other members voted “yes” to the motion. The other members are Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan), and Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan).

The Democrat-controlled JGO is investigating Torres’ expenditures of public funds and travels.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) needs to certify the JGO Committee’s statement holding the governor in contempt. He then also needs to request the Office of the Attorney General to initiate prosecution.

Before adjourning the meeting, Babauta said this contempt recommendation is not about the breakdown of negotiations or communications between the committee and the Executive Branch.

“It is not based on good faith disagreements over privileged assertion. Rather, it is about Gov. Torres’ failure to comply with a constitutionally

contempt.”

They said Torres regarded the subpoena as unlawful and unconstitutional.

Horey and Birnbrich said the governor earlier communicated with the committee in repeated attempts to find common ground or a compromise solution, but the committee rejected any proposal.

They said Torres therefore did not appear before the committee last Friday at 10:30am.

As a consequence of his non-appearance as “commanded,” the committee voted yesterday morning to hold the governor in contempt.

They said the JGO committee is not an “investigating committee,” but a regular standing committee of the House and has not been “authorized” by either full House of the Legislature to issue subpoenas.

The lawyers said the subpoena was not issued in any “matter pending before” the committee, since it relates to no matter referred to the committee by the House, which are the only measures of which the committee may properly and lawfully take cognizance. They said the subpoena was therefore issued in violation of Commonwealth law.

Horey and Birnbrich said it violates the principle of separation of powers for one branch to “command” another branch to take any action whatsoever. In particular, they said, it violates the CNMI Constitution and the Covenant for a committee of one chamber of the Legislature to command the live testimony of the governor, particularly at a time and place and for the length of its choosing, and especially on subjects that would implicate information protected by executive privilege.

They said the subpoena threatens that, unless Torres accedes to the subpoena, he may be “subject to

“Such an action interferes with the

in the vehicle. It was not immediately known what caused the crash.

The officer told *Saipan Tribune* that he and other police officers arrived at the scene at 1:58pm and they saw a man lying on the sand after

crawling out from the flipped vehicle. The officer said the man was responsive but was unable to answer his questions. The officer said that within 10 to 15 minutes after finding the man, he was brought to the hospital to receive medical care.

The accident occurred across the street from the former Hakubutan duty-free shop. DPS officers were on the scene to direct traffic and clean up broken glass and other debris off of the Beach Road pathway. Shortly after, a boom lift truck arrived to lift the flipped car out of the beach.

Safety boats and police officers.

The lawmaker said many of these outings appear to be fishing trips, recreational trips to Managaha Island and the Northern Islands, cruises at sunset and midnight.

Torres recently accused JGO Committee of misinforming the community, saying he and his family never used Boating Safety vessels for fishing or recreational purposes.

Sablan said when push came to shove, Torres has refused to appear and answer questions under oath. Sablan said Torres has invoked immunity and privilege for himself, his staff, the DPS commissioner, without legal merit, and has allowed his secretary to be held in contempt.

“So much for nothing to hide,” she said.

## IPI

*From Page 1*

U.S.A. Fanter Corp. in its breach-of-contract lawsuit against the casino investor.

IPI, through counsel Kevin T. Abikoff, filed notice with the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday, stating that in satisfaction of the terms of its stipulation with USA Fanter, it has secured a “supersedeas” bond in the agreed-upon amount of \$2,450,000, secured by Suretech Insurance Company as surety on behalf of IPI as principal.

Abikoff stated that pursuant to parties’ stipulation regarding the motion to stay judgment pending appeal, IPI now requests approval of its supersedeas bond in the amount of \$2.45 million, which will stay execution on the judgment pending appeal.

“IPI has submitted a supersedeas bond in the amount that the parties’ stipulated would constitute sufficient security, and secured that bond by the date agreed between the parties. Additionally, pursuant to Federal Rule 62(c), IPI requests that the court also extend its stay of the limited receivership,” he said.

The lawyer argued that as USA Fanter’s judgment is now sufficiently secured pending appeal, USA Fanter will not be substantially injured by a stay of the limited receivership.

“IPI submits that the balance of hardships favors a stay of the receivership to avoid the sale of IPI’s

property at depressed prices—which would harm the interests of IPI as well as of its other creditors—and to allow IPI’s arguments to be fully heard on appeal, without incurring the extreme prejudice of having its assets sold by a receiver,” Abikoff said.

According to court documents, on Feb. 12, 2021, the court entered a judgment in favor of USA Fanter against IPI for a mechanic’s lien in the amount of \$2,089,345.28.

On May 26, the court entered an amended judgment in favor of USA Fanter, against IPI for a mechanic’s lien and a money judgment in the amount of \$2,089,345.28, plus pre- and post-judgement interest and costs.

However, on May 12, IPI filed a Notice of Appeal on these judgments.

Last Oct. 26, the court issued a memorandum decision granting USA Fanter’s motion to appoint a limited receiver to sell IPI’s “casino gaming property” in order to satisfy its judgment against IPI.

On Nov. 29, IPI filed a motion to stay judgment pending appeal. That same day, the court granted a stay until Dec. 15, and ordered IPI and USA Fanter to attempt to negotiate a stipulation regarding sufficient security.

On Dec. 8, IPI and USA Fanter jointly stipulated that should IPI secure a supersedeas bond in the amount of \$2.45 million on or before Dec. 15, USA Fanter would agree that this constitutes sufficient security and would not oppose a stay of enforcement in this action.

## SUBSIDY

*From Page 3*

awarded SCASDP grants totaling nearly \$18 million,” he said.

In a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, following the recent suspension of flights by Star Marianas Airlines Inc.—the CNMI’s only interisland air travel service provider—due to a fee assessment dispute, CPA reached out to the U.S. DOT request-

ing it extend the eligibility for federal subsidy under their many programs.

King-Hinds explained that the only long-term solution to their current problem with Star Marianas is to make federal subsidy available through the various programs offered by the U.S. DOT, including the Essential Air Service Program, the Alternative Essential Air Service Program, and the Small Community Air Service Development Program.

# CGC certifies 19 on Tinian and Rota in Mental Health First Aid

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp.'s Community Guidance Center, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Tinian and Mayor's Office of Rota, recently hosted Adult Mental Health First Aid trainings certifying a total of 19 individuals—12 on Tinian and seven on Rota.

The CGC has administered 1,187 certifications in the CNMI, Palau, and Guam in either the MHFA youth curriculum or adult curriculum since the training initiative began in 2015.

The agencies represented at

## Rip currents present; small craft advisory in effect

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Thursday in east facing reefs of the Marianas. Also, a small craft advisory is now in effect until 6am today, Wednesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are expected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through tomorrow, Thursday.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is being warned to

the Nov. 17 training on Tinian included the Division of Emergency Preparedness, Tinian Youth Center, and CGC Crisis Counseling Program. Agencies represented at the Nov. 18 training on Rota included Office of Programs and Grants, CGC Crisis Counseling Program, and CGC Behavioral Health Response Program.

As an evidence-based, early intervention program, MHFA teaches participants the tools to identify, understand and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use chal-

lenge—and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary. Participants gain confidence in

reaching out to an individual and offering appropriate support, which ultimately helps to break down barriers and re-

duce stigma in the community. For more information on MHFA, visit <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>. For contact

information and to request for the CGC's MHFA training, visit <https://chcc.gov.mp/communitysupporttraining.php>. (PR)



Representatives of the Division of Emergency Preparedness, Tinian Youth Center, and CGC Crisis Counseling Program attend the Nov. 17 training on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Representatives of the Office of Programs and Grants, CGC Crisis Counseling Program, and CGC Behavioral Health Response Program attend the Nov. 18 training on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Pinned FB post  
FB Video  
(FB Stories  
Swipe Up)  
FACEBOOK



Banner Ad  
Skyscraper Ad  
Right Tile  
TAGA Plus  
WEB

Our Platforms





PRINT



IG Post  
IG Stories  
INSTAGRAM

Call **670.235-NEWS (6397)**  
to learn more opportunities.

## Antigen tests now being done in 3 fire stations

Antigen tests are rolled out to bring rapid identification of SARS-CoV-2 infection and to augment and not replace current efforts.

Below are the COVID-19 antigen drive-thru testing dates on Saipan:

■ Kagman Fire Station: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 8am – 4pm

■ Garapan Fire Station: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 8am – 4pm

■ Susupe Fire Station: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 8am – 4pm

A negative test result means you may not be currently in-

fected. It does not rule out an infection.

False negatives are fairly common with antigen tests. If you are a close contact of someone positive for SARS-CoV-2, it is important that a negative antigen test be confirmed with a PCR test, or that you go to a PCR test collection site instead—the community-based testing offered at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

To register for CBT, visit <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. If a date is not showing, it means all slots have been filled. More dates will be announced.

If you are unsure of expo-

sure but attending a gathering, live COVID-19 safe: follow the 3 W's (wear a mask, wash

your hands, watch your distance); limit your contact with people outside your house-

hold; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and

disinfect high touch surfaces daily; and monitor for symptoms daily. (PR)

## GMS celebrates middle school competition winners

### Junior International Thespian Winners

Nov. 5, 2021

Trishonny Duarte (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

3<sup>rd</sup> place-Monologue

Andres Antonino (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

3<sup>rd</sup> place-Monologue

Rhett Garth Agbayani

(6<sup>th</sup> grade) 4<sup>th</sup> place -Monologue

Sander Dalle Guerzon

(6<sup>th</sup> grade) 4<sup>th</sup> place-Monologue

### National Junior Speech & Debate Association

Oct. 29, 2021

Isabella Marie Mallari (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Original Oratory

5<sup>th</sup> place – Poetry B

Nelisa Nicole Acaba (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Dramatic Interp

4<sup>th</sup> place – Poetry B

Louise Manansala (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1<sup>st</sup> place – IMP A

5<sup>th</sup> place – Declamation

Tristan Yanto (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Poetry Masters

5<sup>th</sup> place – IMP B

Paula Bernardo (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – IMP B

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Poetry Masters  
Princess Lopez (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Poetry A

Rosemarie Gamelo (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

5<sup>th</sup> place – Poetry A

5<sup>th</sup> place Dramatic Interp

Clarence Molinar (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

4<sup>th</sup> place – IMP A

James Quindoza (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

4<sup>th</sup> place – IMP B

Jealexiz Torres (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

4<sup>th</sup> place – Dramatic Interp

Ezra Kirsten Alfred (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Poetry Masters

4<sup>th</sup> place – Poetry Masters

Yel Khalil Ocampo (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Declamation

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Adetfa Lot, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Adetfa Lot, LLC, is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Adetfa Lot, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Adetfa Lot, LLC, is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
CannaBlyss Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. CannaBlyss Inc. is proposing to amend conditional use permit no. 2020-7539 to utilize a portion of an existing structure (Building B) measuring 10.3' (L) x 19.5' (W) x 10.2' (H) for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No 1856 New-6-1 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy a vacant lot and utilize fourteen (14) 10' (L) x 10' (W) canopy tents for its outdoor growing area. This use is classified as Cannabis Farm and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 549-2-R2 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
MEC, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. MEC, LLC, is proposing to construct an additional warehouse measuring 166' (L) x 60' (W) x 15' (H) for its Warehousing & General Wholesaling use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 380 Bnew-7-1-R2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
YAS Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. YAS Farms, is proposing to construct **two (2)** high tunnel systems, each measuring 72' (L) x 32' (W) x 12' (H) to be utilized as greenhouses and one (1) warehouse structure measuring 50' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H) to be utilized for its flowering room, vegetating room, office and storage space for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on E.A.221 R2 & H 221-1-1 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** December 29, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 28, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmzoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmzoning.com), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Vice Chairman

# NMC alumni certified in maternal newborn nursing

Northern Marianas College graduates Xiu Zhen Lizama and Joy Anna Marie Waldo recently earned their certification in Maternal Newborn Nursing from the National Certification Corp.

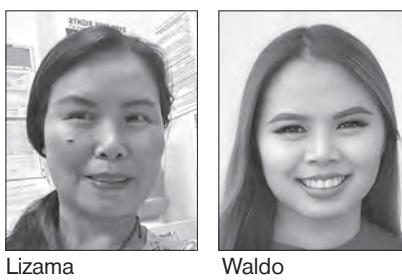
The Maternal Newborn Nursing certification is for mother/baby nurses who provide care to the childbearing family from birth to

## End-of-year Precinct 2 village cleanup this Saturday

As 2021 draws to a close, Precinct 2 residents are invited to show some extra love for their villages by cleaning up around their homes and neighborhoods this Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. Bring collected household waste and roadside litter to the lot south of Chalan Kanoa Cemetery on Texas Road between 8am and 12pm. Note: no hazardous materials, junk appliances or cars, green waste, tires, or similar items will be accepted. For more information, or assistance with trash pickup or supplies on Saturday, call the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or 285-5392. (PR)

6 weeks within hospital, outpatient, or community settings. This certification demonstrates the specialty knowledge of mother/baby nurses in maternal postpartum assessment, management, education, and complications. It also validates their specialty knowledge of newborn assessment, management, transition, and complications.

"All of us here at the college congratulate Xiu and Joy and we wish them the best of



Lizama

Waldo

luck as they continue to develop professionally," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said.

Rosa T. Aldan, NMC nursing department chair, said she

and the entire nursing department of NMC are proud of Lizama and Waldo. Both of them currently work at the Obstetric/Nursery Unit of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as registered nurses.

"It is great to see our graduates pursuing advanced nursing degrees and national certifications to further their nursing practice and education," Aldan said.

Waldo, a 2017 NMC nurs-

ing alumna, said it was her manager at CHCC who encouraged her to get certified. "I decided to take the opportunity," Waldo said. "This certification enhanced my professional credibility and helped me demonstrate a higher level of clinical competence toward mothers, newborns, and gynecology patients here in the CNMI."

Waldo is now working toward a Masters in Nursing Informatics at Western Governors University and plans to

start taking classes next year.

Lizama, who graduated from NMC's nursing program in 2012, spent four months preparing for the examination.

"I decided to pursue this certification to provide higher quality nursing care in the maternal and newborn setting," Lizama said. "I was encouraged by CHCC to take it as well."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aladan@marianas.edu or call 237-6744. (PR)

## MCS Holiday Coupon booklets saves you money

To raise needed funds, spread the Christmas spirit, and save community members money, Mount Carmel School is bringing back its Holiday Coupon Fundraiser.

The purpose of the fundraiser is to provide the community with a complete booklet of holiday coupons from local establishments. As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many families and the CNMI economy, this fundraiser also aims to provide families with discounts for this holiday season while also drawing customers to local businesses.

Funds raised by this program will be directly invested in Mount Carmel School's

academic programs and services, COVID-19 mitigation resources, and infrastructural improvements as the school aims to increase more face-to-face classes by its second semester.

Only 200 booklets are available for purchase and can be bought at the MCS Business Office from Monday to Friday between 7am and 4pm.

The \$50 holiday coupon booklet contains a total of 49 coupons with discounts from partners like All Star, Blackwood, Borderline, Couples Cakery, Cup Bap, Fishing Tackle, Girl Talk, Gold's Gym, Great Harvest, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hot

Deals Saipan, Inas' Kitchen, Kiki's, Latte Cafe, Naked Fish, Natural Nail Spa, Panda House, Poki Yaki, 670 Rock Steady, Saipan Ice Island Cafe, Spicy Thai Restaurant, Surf Club, TBar, The Shack, Tribe Marianas, and Tyler's Gelatte Stone. Participants of the fundraiser can save over \$200 this holiday season through the provided discounts alone.

MCS acting president Frances Taimanao said, "We are... excited to bring back this fundraising program this year, but what's especially exciting for us is to be providing our community with this opportunity to spread the Christmas spirit and make the gift of giving af-



Mount Carmel School is bringing back its Mount Carmel School Holiday Coupon Fundraiser. Each booklet is priced at \$50 and contains 49 discount coupons from local establishments. For more information, visit [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

fordable during the holidays." day Coupon Fundraiser, visit [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com). (PR)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-001

#### KOBLERVILLE SEWERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Koblerville Sewerline Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-001, Koblerville Sewer Line Extension Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 11, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 30, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org), Joel Puyat, Engineer via email at [joel.puyat@cucgov.org](mailto:joel.puyat@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior, Administrative Technician via email address at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

December 29, 2021 | 5:00 PM  
Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort  
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666  
[www.cnmzoning.com](http://www.cnmzoning.com)



### AGENDA

#### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/04/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

#### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8054** – YAS Farms is proposing to construct two (2) high tunnel systems, each measuring 72' (L) x 32' (W) x 12' (H) to be utilized as greenhouses and one (1) warehouse structure measuring 50' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H) to be utilized for its flowering room, vegetating room, office and storage space for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on E.A.221 R2 & H 221-1-1 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-9660** – MEC, LLC is proposing to construct an additional warehouse measuring 166' (L) x 60' (W) x 15' (H) for its Warehousing & General Wholesaling use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 380 Bnew-7-1-R2 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8903** – Adetfa Lot, LLC is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8904** – Adetfa Lot, LLC is proposing to utilize the ground floor of an existing 3-storey concrete building structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 010 D 05 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8931** – CannaBlyss, Inc. is proposing to amend conditional use permit no. 2020-7539 to utilize a portion of an existing structure (Building B) measuring 10.3' (L) x 19.5' (W) x 10.2'(H) for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 1856 New-6-1 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8929** – Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy a vacant lot and utilize fourteen (14) 10' (L) x 10' (W) canopy tents for its outdoor growing area. This use is classified as Cannabis Farm and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 549-2-R2 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

#### C. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

**Zoom Video Communications**  
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>  
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 248  
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### What we spend: The Defense Authorization Act, 'Build Back Better' and American priorities

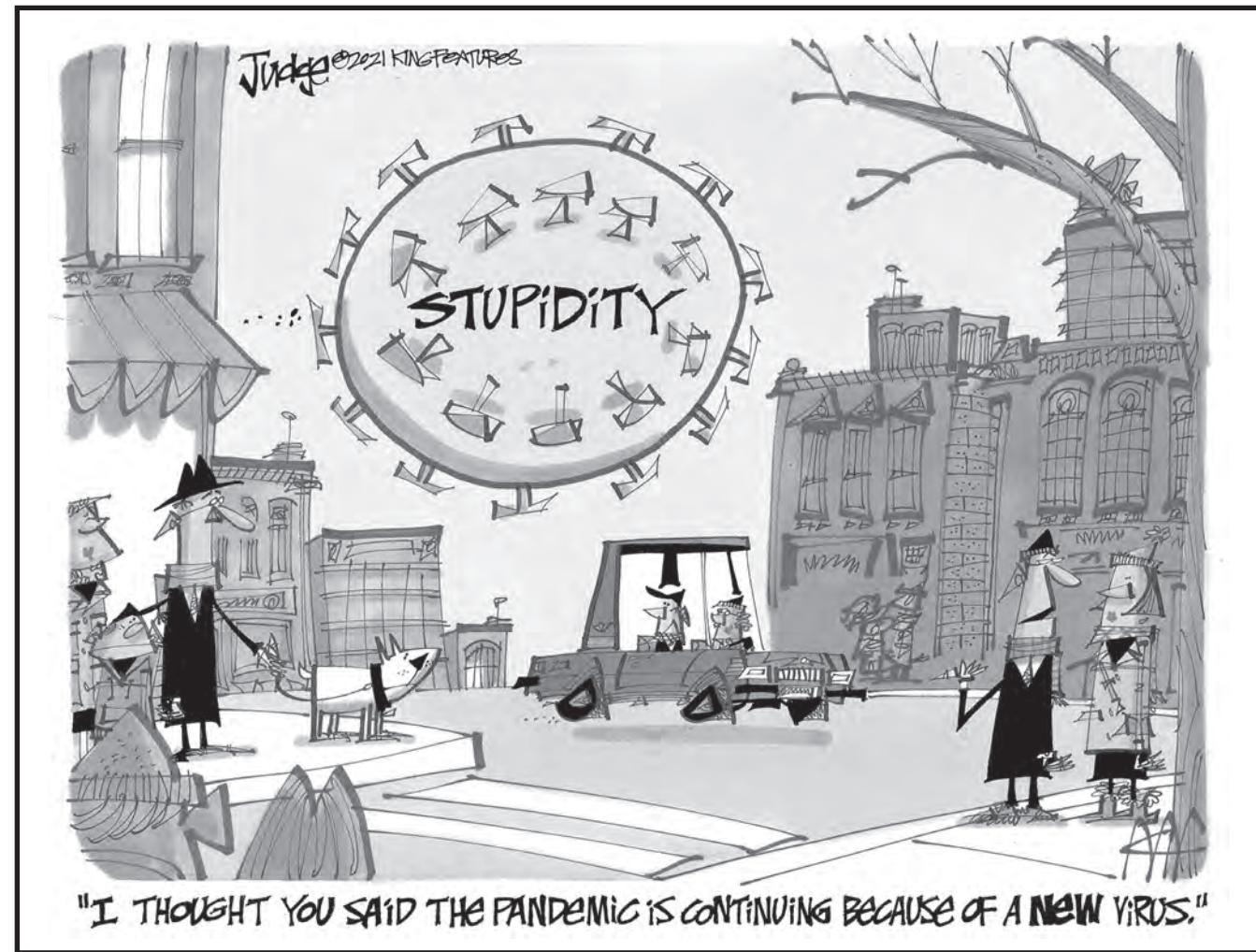
It's not often that the end of something means you spend even more money on it, but U.S. defense spending has long defied most rational parameters. With the United States formally out of wars for the first time in about two decades, the Pentagon's budget increased 5% over last year to a staggering \$768 billion in the annual National Defense Authorization Act alone, with an additional \$10 billion in non-NDAA defense spending. The package was passed by the House and is expected to pass the Senate.

While lawmakers spent months in protracted negotiations whittling down the infrastructure package and President Joe Biden's social spending bill, there was no such inhibition when it came to the defense package, with legislators tossing in \$25 billion more than what Biden had requested. Despite being a spending measure of roughly half the size of the controversial infrastructure bill in just one year, it is remarkably difficult to find much robust public conversation about what its components even are.

We're not peaceniks. We support a robust, state-of-the-art military. Still, it should give politicians ostensibly worried about spending pause that a total of \$28 billion is going to some 400 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. There is lots more money for tanks, armored vehicles, small arms and all sorts of other implements mainly useful for ground invasions of the type we just ended. Again: Some of the weapons systems and programs are worthwhile, and others are not, but it's unconscionable that policymakers barely feel the need to justify this fire hose of public dollars.

Meantime, one thing that is missing from the massive bill is a provision to move the investigation of serious crimes within the armed forces, including sexual assault, out of the chain of command and into the hands of trained and impartial military prosecutors. That important measure backed by New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand failed despite the backing of bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress. It seems like there's plenty of money, but not so much room for justice.

©2021 New York Daily News



### Stop these cruel experiments with our kids' education

The world has been conducting an inadvertent socioeconomic experiment on young people, one that would in normal circumstances be prohibited for being cruel and inhuman.

As part of their efforts to control the pandemic, many countries have for parts of the past two years closed schools. Some resorted to this measure more, others less, and they all did it in different ways. It's as though they had set out to test what happens in the long term to individuals, societies and nations when you deprive some children of education.

It should be obvious what's cruel and inhuman about this. The study's subjects, namely the kids, never had a chance to opt in or out. They just found themselves in a given country, school district, household and family—and then lived with the consequences. For many, those will be grave.

Among those now laying the groundwork for future research are Vera Freundl, Clara Stiegler and Larissa Zierow at the Ifo Institute in Munich, an economic think tank. In a new paper, they compare seven representative countries in the European Union: Poland, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, Austria and the Netherlands.

At one extreme is Sweden, which became famous (or notorious, depending on your point of view) for refraining from harsh coronavirus restrictions and largely kept schools open. France and Spain, even though they had horrendous outbreaks, also tried hard to keep kids in school: They instead restricted the activities of adults more severely. Austria and the Netherlands muddled through, the latter opting more for partial closures—holding classes in shifts, for example. Germany and Poland kept kids at home longest.

In surveys, parents have confirmed that the more time children spent at home, the less time they spent learning. (Screens, in this context, are more often enemies than allies). But it's not just the duration of the physical school closures that mattered.

The quality varied just as much, and that depended on the digital sophistication of countries as they went into the pandemic. In this group, Sweden topped the list, with 80% of school principals in surveys saying that they were immediately ready with an online-learning platform. Germany was the laggard, with only one in three principals claiming the same. Students reported similar differences. German children, in short, lost twice: in the quantity and quality of teaching.

Comparing actual learning is harder. But it's obvious that children have huge gaps, not just in reading and math but also in so-

By ANDREAS KLUTH

Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of *Handelsblatt Global* and a writer for the *Economist*. He's the author of *Hannibal and Me*.



cial and creative skills. At my children's school, several teachers have told me that the boys in particular have noticeably worse fine-motor skills, because during online-schooling they spent so much time typing and so little writing by hand.

A Dutch study showed that the closures in the Netherlands in the spring of 2020 led to a learning loss equivalent to 20% of the academic year, or exactly as long as children stayed home. You can extrapolate the loss in the countries that closed schools longer and weren't as good at teaching online.

The same study revealed that academic losses were 60% worse for children from less-educated homes, usually meaning families with lower incomes. And that's in the relatively egalitarian Netherlands. Kids in poor households have slower (if any) broadband, fewer and older devices, and often parents who aren't confident in helping out with the tech stuff or the academics.

The most interesting pedagogical question to me is whether we—teachers, parents, policymakers—can ever help the children make up for these losses. In some cases, the answer is yes. France has apparently plugged the gaps in reading and math resulting from the first school closures, at least for students from educated families. But in many cases, especially when dealing with poorer children, it'll be hard.

But there are other questions to ask. We know that many children also started suffering chronic depression and anxiety during the closures. Inevitably, the shutdowns therefore also abetted future ills such as epidemics in psychological disorders and drug abuse. How much will those afflictions rise?

We also know that children who learn less will achieve and earn less. How much income will they lose over a life time? More will be unemployed or underemployed, and will have to depend on government benefits. How many more?

Fewer will do advanced research and found start-ups. Which Next Big Things will never be invented? Inequality will grow, as

See STOP on next page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## ‘What is needed now is for us to work together’

**Editor’s Note:** In a video message, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres responded to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Here is the full transcript of the governor’s message:

**T**o my dear people of the Commonwealth, I want to speak to you today about the political attacks that myself and my family have endured unfairly for a long, long time and why I will not subject myself as governor to an unfair and unlawful political hearing.

Over the course of the past year, we have seen a politically-driven House committee conduct a witch hunt on innocent government employees in order to fulfill their political goals. We saw certain elected officials censor people for not answering questions in a way that they want, and even hold people in contempt for not cooperating with their agenda.

Last week, on Dec. 7, my office reached out to the JGO Committee in good faith to negotiate a fair and balanced setting to address their questions, which the committee responded to the following day. My office exchanged conversations with the JGO committee to discuss a neutral venue with committee chairwoman Rep. Celina Babauta asking questions and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez as the moderator. This event was also to be livestreamed for the public.

Over the weekend, the JGO rejected this proposal even though it was fair, balanced, and focused on the issues at hand between two separate and equal branches of government.

When these elected officials took the oath of office in Janu-

**FULL VIDEO:** <https://fb.watch/9TwPsMoPB5/>

ary, the same oath that I took as governor, they swore to faithfully discharge their duties as public servants. However, as we have seen for months, the House JGO Committee have used the House of Representatives chamber not for policy debate and deliberation of important issues, but for political intimidation in order to promote their agenda.

Their agenda is simple: The House JGO Committee want to impeach a governor, who was elected by the people, but who they do not like. They do not seek to provide solutions to our islands’ problems. And they have sat on the sidelines throughout this pandemic, while throwing rocks at everything we do to keep our people safe.

I will not be attending the House JGO Committee hearing because the Executive Branch is a separate and equal branch of government under the Commonwealth Constitution and must be treated equally to the Legislative Branch. The Office of the Governor should not and cannot be subordinated to the Legislature, let alone the overreaching acts of an out-of-control committee of the House of Representatives. I do this to protect not only my rights as governor but to protect the institution of the governor under the Constitution, and thus protect future governors from arbitrary overreach by future legislatures.

I am asking everyone in our community to ease tensions, calm tempers, and help to promote peace in our Commonwealth. I am not perfect, nor do I claim to be. But I am certain that, since I started my journey to work for you, the people of the Com-

### By RALPH DLG TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



wealth, that I have always had your interests, your safety, and your livelihoods at the forefront of any and every decision I make.

I know we are not where we were before the typhoons and COVID-19. But I know we can get there again. Collaboration is our story. It is the story of our Commonwealth. And it is why we are a resilient people.

What is needed now is for us to work together. All of us can choose to rise above the political noise and find common ground and shared purpose. We must focus on advancing the interests of the CNMI, safeguarding our people, defeating the pandemic, rebuilding our economy, and upholding the rule of law.

Today, I am calling on everyone who calls the CNMI home to overcome the politics of the JGO Committee and work together on solutions for our people. Let us choose to move forward united for the good of our families, our villages, and our Commonwealth.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the Northern Mariana Islands.

### RICK’S COLUMN

#### By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at [guamaffairs.substack.com](http://guamaffairs.substack.com). For questions or comments, contact Perez at [rickp7839@gmail.com](mailto:rickp7839@gmail.com).



### What our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization needs to know and remember

Andersen Air Force Base remains a Superfund site, not completely cleaned up by the Pentagon. What we should know is that our Chamorro family clans who used to own land where Andersen is located were never fully and adequately compensated for the lands stolen by the U.S. government. What we need to know and remember is that past environmental damage was never fully cleaned up by the Air Force or the federal regime.

We need to remember that the American Air Force is a huge organization, made up of over half a million individuals worldwide, working as Reserve, National Guard, active duty, and Space Force employees. We need to remember that the Marianas sees some of the Air Force’s most prized assets locally to include unmanned aircraft combat systems, space and special operations activities, strategic bombing activities, training, cargo, and air fuel tanker activities as well as deep and wide intelligence and electronic warfare activities used to survey our immediate and broader areas to include closely monitoring of nuclear testing work performed by DPRK.

We need to remember that the Air Force uses our island to support the air-based pillar of America’s nuclear weapons delivery triad. We need to remember that the Air Force’s ability to operate is solely based on informational and operational networks that require high technology and that are heavily present in outer space and that, without space-based satellites, the Air Force would not be able to fulfill its global military mission.

## Marianas Islands and the Air Force

**O**ur Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization has been heavily influenced by all aspects of the American armed forces for many years for many reasons. The Mariana Islands have been and continue to be connected at the hip to U.S. naval and air force activity during both wartime and in peace.

Guam may be the only place on planet Earth where the Navy has had free military-led dictatorial government reign on an entire Pacific Islander civilization that lasted for decades. Tinian is the only place on planet Earth where the sole atomic bombing air attack operation series were launched against Japan by the United States, that resulted in massive devastation, creating the conditions that led to the end of World War II.

### Air Force and Guam

Prior to the end of the war, the Army Air Corps produced massive contamination throughout northern Guam due to the activity associated with the thousands of aircraft taking off from Guam on firebomb missions against Japan.

After World War II, the Army Air Corps turned into the U.S. Air Force. Since then, thousands of Chamorros have signed up in different capacities to join Air Force ranks. Chamorros have served as non-commissioned officers, commissioned officers, and one or two may have become general officers.

The presence of the U.S. Air Force in Guam today is overwhelming and priceless from an American imperial military perspective.

Andersen Air Force Base may have the single largest petroleum, oil, and lubricant infrastructure system anywhere in the world. Andersen has a tremendous ability to receive, store and load weapons of war onto planes, engage in unmanned air warfare, maintain and support all Air Force assets arriving on-island, use technology to assess and survey the total airspace environment, deploy to select targets anywhere in the world, and respond to nuclear war.

Our ancient Chamorro island home is also ground zero for some of the Air Force’s most important units. Many of our fami-

lies have or are serving in the Air National Guard, the Reserves, and many of these individuals are directly supporting Air Force mission sets to move construction and engineering assets anywhere in the world on a moment’s notice.

The Air Force is heavily involved in operational activities on Tinian and Saipan because of the perceived need in part, to divert aircraft from Guam should Guam be hit by a nuclear or conventional missile attack.

Andersen is also a base that was built and located on limestone plateau that was wrongfully taken from many Chamorro families because it was seized without prior, formal, or written consent.

### Air Force and Guam’s water lens

Over the past several decades, the Air Force, as with the Army Air Corps, has contaminated Guam’s sole underground aquifer system. Many of our family members living in Yigo and other locations have contracted rare diseases ranging from blood cancers to organ damage from unacceptable levels of exposure to toxic chemicals discharged by the Air Force in response to aircraft and base maintenance operations.

### Air Force in the region

The Air Force and the United States must continue to maintain the support of Pacific Islander civilizations throughout Micronesia and the greater Pacific Ocean region. Without securing support on an ongoing basis from Chamorros and other Pacific Islander civilizations, the Air Force would not be able to maintain and grow its presence.

The United States, Britain, France, Canada, New Zealand, and others remain increasingly active and involved in maintaining security interests that include the preparation and deployment of air power throughout the region. Andersen provides a central location for various national air forces to meet up, operate and train for war, presumably against China, Russia and the DPRK.

The Air Force also maintains significant interests in space and intercontinental ballistic missile activities both in the Marianas and in eastern Micronesia.

One thing I’m sure about: The socioeconomic effects of school closures—whose epidemiological rationale is unclear—will far outlast SARS-CoV-2 itself. Other things being equal, it seems safe to guess that the Swedes of the world will do better than the Germanies, in many ways.

Since this pandemic is far from over, let’s stipulate the follow-

ing: First, education is the greatest boon available to individuals and societies alike, right up there with health, so never again squander it. Second, if you still don’t grok the digital world, you shouldn’t be in education at all. And third, if you ever need to run an inadvertent socioeconomic experiment again, do it with adults who can vote, not children.

### STOP

From Page 8

the children from privileged families make up for their learning loss and the ones from poor households fall further behind. How many of them will fall prey to populists, on the far left or far right?



# Business

## AP seeks answers from US gov't on tracking of journalists

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Associated Press sought answers Monday from the Department of Homeland Security on its use of sensitive government databases for tracking international terrorists to investigate as many as 20 American journalists, including an acclaimed AP reporter.

In a letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, AP Executive Editor Julie Pace urged the agency to explain why the name of Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Martha Mendoza was run through the databases and

identified as a potential confidential informant during the Trump administration, as detailed in a report by Homeland Security's inspector general.

"This is a flagrant example of a federal agency using its power to examine the contacts of journalists," Pace wrote. "While the actions detailed in the inspector general's report occurred under a previous administration, the practices were described as routine."

The DHS investigation of U.S. journalists, as well as congressional staff and perhaps members of Congress, which was reported by

Yahoo News and AP on Saturday. It represents the latest apparent example of an agency created in the wake of the 9/11 attacks using its vast capabilities to target American citizens.

DHS prompted criticism from Congress and elsewhere

in July 2020 when it deployed poorly or unidentified agents in military-style uniforms to sweep people off the streets of Portland, Oregon, and hustle them into unmarked cars during protests outside the federal courthouse in the city.

This latest revelation

prompted Sen. Ron Wyden to call on DHS to immediately turn over the inspector general report to Congress.

"If multiple government agencies were aware of this conduct and took no action to stop it, there needs to be serious consequences for every

official involved, and DHS and the Justice Department must explain what actions they are taking to prevent this unacceptable conduct in the future," said Wyden, an Oregon Democrat who has long sought more oversight of government surveillance.

## Hard Rock International buying The Mirage operation in Vegas

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Hard Rock International said Monday it wants to see how a guitar-shaped hotel will play at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip.

In a statement, Hard Rock Chairman Jim Allen said the Florida-based hospitality and entertainment giant plans to build a guitar-shaped hotel at the 80-acre (32.4-hectare) property. An artist's rendering depicts a shapely purple guitar with six light beams depicting strings stretching skyward.

It wasn't immediately clear if the iconic Mirage volcano fountain will remain at the property that former casino

mogul Steve Wynn opened with a Polynesian theme in November 1989. MGM Resorts acquired the 3,000-room resort in 2000.

The underlying Mirage real estate is now owned by MGM Growth Properties, which is being bought by New York-based VICI Properties in a \$17.2 billion deal expected to close next year.

"This announcement marks the culmination of a series of transformational transactions

for MGM Resorts during the last several years," said Paul Salem, Chairman of the MGM Resorts board of directors.

"The monetization of our entire real property portfolio, together with the addition of CityCenter and our agreement to acquire The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, will position the company with a fortress balance sheet, premier portfolio and significant financial resources to pursue our strategic objectives," he said.

## California brings back mask mandate as virus cases rise



Signs with social distancing guidelines and face mask requirements are posted at an outdoor mall amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Los Angeles, on June 11, 2021. AP

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Biden admin reveals 60 finalists for \$1B in economic grants

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo on Monday announced 60 finalists for \$1 billion in economic development grants tied to the Biden administration's coronavirus relief package and aimed at improving job training and regional industry partnerships. There were 529 applicants for the grants. That means roughly 11% of submissions made it to the next round, which will ultimately choose 20 to 30 regional coalitions for up to \$100 million in grants that could shape manufacturing, clean energy and life sciences hubs around the country. Twelve of the finalists were from places tied to the coal industry. The finalists were predominantly coalitions made up of government, academic and economic partnerships. They will receive \$500,000 each to help plan for the next round, with applications due in March. The deadline for choosing the winners is September.

#### Medicare urged to flex its power and slash back premium hike

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The head of a Senate panel that oversees Medicare says the Biden administration should use its legal authority to cut back a hefty premium increase soon hitting millions of enrollees, as a growing number of Democratic lawmakers call for action amid worries over rising inflation. Last month, Medicare announced one of the largest increases ever in its "Part B" monthly premium for outpatient care, nearly \$22, from \$148.50 currently to \$170.10 starting in January. The agency attributed roughly half the

hike, about \$11 a month, to the need for a contingency fund to cover Aduhelm, a new \$56,000 Alzheimer's drug from Biogen whose benefits have been widely questioned. For most Medicare enrollees, the premium is deducted from their Social Security checks. Without further action, it would swallow up a significant chunk of seniors' 5.9% cost of living increase.

#### Insurer agrees to \$800M settlement in Boy Scouts bankruptcy

**DOVER, Del.** (AP)—Attorneys in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy case have reached a tentative settlement under which one of the organization's largest insurers would contribute \$800 million into a fund for victims of child sexual abuse. The agreement announced Monday calls for Century Indemnity Co. and affiliated companies to contribute \$800 million into the fund in return for being released from further liability for abuse claims. The payment would bring the amount of money in the proposed trust to more than \$2.6 billion, which would be the largest sexual abuse settlement in U.S. history. The settlement comes as more than 82,000 sexual abuse claimants face a Dec. 28 deadline to vote on a previously announced Boy Scouts reorganization plan.

That plan called for the Boys Scouts and its roughly 250 local councils to contribute up to \$820 million in cash and property into a fund for victims. They also would assign certain insurance rights to the fund. In return, the local councils and national organization would be released from further liability for sexual abuse claims.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration announced the new mandate will start Wednesday and last until Jan. 15. The order comes as the per capita rate of new coronavirus cases in California has jumped 47% in the past two weeks.

"We know people are tired and hungry for normalcy.

In a statement, Hard Rock Chairman Jim Allen said the Florida-based hospitality and entertainment giant plans to build a guitar-shaped hotel at the 80-acre (32.4-hectare) property. An artist's rendering depicts a shapely purple guitar with six light beams depicting strings stretching skyward.

It wasn't immediately clear if the iconic Mirage volcano fountain will remain at the property that former casino

mogul Steve Wynn opened with a Polynesian theme in November 1989. MGM Resorts acquired the 3,000-room resort in 2000.

The underlying Mirage real estate is now owned by MGM Growth Properties, which is being bought by New York-based VICI Properties in a \$17.2 billion deal expected to close next year.

"This announcement marks the culmination of a series of transformational transactions

for MGM Resorts during the last several years," said Paul Salem, Chairman of the MGM Resorts board of directors.

"The monetization of our entire real property portfolio, together with the addition of CityCenter and our agreement to acquire The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, will position the company with a fortress balance sheet, premier portfolio and significant financial resources to pursue our strategic objectives," he said.

Frankly, I am too," California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Monday. "That said, this is a critical time where we have a tool that we know has worked and can work."

California lifted its statewide mask mandate on June 15 for people who were vaccinated, a date Newsom heralded as the state's grand reopening. But since then, county governments covering about half of the state's population have imposed their own indoor mask mandates as case rates surged with new variants.

The new mask mandate will cover everyone else, but state officials on Monday were unclear about how it would be enforced. Ghaly said enforcement would likely be stronger in some places than others, but he urged Californians to heed the warnings and wear masks.

"We know that there's going to be people who don't necessarily agree with this, who are tired, who aren't going to mask," Ghaly said. "We hope that those are few and far between, that most people see the purpose of doing this over the next month as something to

protect them and their communities during a very tough time."

Newsom has issued lots of other coronavirus mandates, including requiring state employees, health care workers and, soon, public school students and teachers to be vaccinated. The governor can do this because California is still operating under an emergency declaration Newsom issued at the beginning of the pandemic. That emergency declaration will remain in place until either Newsom lifts it or the state Legislature votes to end it.

# Nation

## Thousands without heat, water after tornadoes kill dozens

**MAYFIELD, Ky.** (AP)—Residents of Kentucky counties where tornadoes killed dozens of people could be without heat, water or electricity in frigid temperatures for weeks or longer, state officials warned Monday, as the toll of damage and deaths came into clearer focus in five states slammed by the swarm of twisters.

Kentucky authorities said the sheer level of destruction was hindering their ability to tally the damage from Friday night's storms. At least 88 people—including 74 in Kentucky—were killed by the tornado outbreak that also destroyed a nursing home in Arkansas, heavily damaged an Amazon distribution center in Illinois and spread its deadly effects into Tennessee and Missouri.

In Kentucky, as searches continued for those still missing, efforts also turned to repairing the power grid, sheltering those whose homes were destroyed and delivering drinking water and other supplies.

"We're not going to let any



of our families go homeless," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in announcing that lodges in state parks were being used to provide shelter.

In Mayfield, one of the hardest hit towns, those who survived faced a high in the 50s and a low below freezing Monday without any utilities.

"Our infrastructure is so damaged. We have no running water. Our water tower was lost. Our wastewater management was lost, and there's

no natural gas to the city. So we have nothing to rely on there," Mayfield Mayor Kathy Stewart O'Nan said on "CBS Mornings." "So that is purely

survival at this point for so many of our people."

Across the state, about 26,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, including nearly all of those in Mayfield. More than 10,000 homes and businesses have no water, and another 17,000 are under boil-water advisories, Kentucky Emergency Management Director Michael Dossett told reporters.

Kentucky was the worst hit by far in the cluster of twisters across several states, remarkable because they came at a time of year when cold weather normally limits tornadoes. At least 74 people died in the state, Beshear said Monday, offering the first specific count of the dead.

## Air Force discharges 27 for refusal to get COVID vaccine

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Air Force has discharged 27 people for refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine, making them what officials believe are the first service members to be removed for disobeying the mandate to get the shots.



Austin

ministratively discharged for reasons involving the vaccine.

She said all of them were in their first term of enlistment, so they were younger, lower-ranking personnel. And while the Air Force does not disclose what type of discharge a service member gets, legislation working its way through Congress limits the military to giving troops in vaccine refusal cases an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

The Pentagon earlier this year required the vaccine for

all members of the military, including active duty, National Guard and the Reserves. Each of the services set its own deadlines and procedures for the mandate, and the Air Force set the earliest deadline. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has said the vaccine is critical to maintaining the health of the force and its ability to respond to an national security crisis.

None of the 27 airmen sought any type of exemption, medical, administrative or religious, Stefanek said. Several officials from the other services said they believe that so far only the Air Force has gotten this far along in the process

and discharged people over the vaccine refusal.

As a result, they were formally removed from service for failure to obey an order. Stefanek said it is also possible that some had other infractions on their records, but all had the vaccine refusal as one of the elements of their discharge.

It is not unusual for members of the military to be thrown out of the service for disobeying an order—discipline is a key tenet of the armed services. As a comparison, Stefanek said that in the first three quarters of 2021, about 1,800 airmen were discharged for failure to follow orders.

## Chauvin expected to plead guilty in Floyd civil rights case

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin appears to be on the verge of pleading guilty to violating George Floyd's civil rights, a move that would remove him from a federal trial but could significantly increase the amount of time he'll spend behind bars.

A notice sent out Monday by the court's electronic filing system shows a hearing is scheduled for Wednesday for Chauvin to change his not guilty plea. These types of notices typically indicate a defendant is planning to plead guilty, though nothing will be official until it happens in court.

Chauvin has already been



Chauvin

convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges for pinning his knee against Floyd's neck as the Black man said he couldn't breathe during a May 25, 2020, arrest. He was sentenced to 22 1/2 years in that case.

A message left with Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, was not immediately returned. The U.S. Attorney's Office had no comment.

Chauvin and three other former officers—Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao—were indicted earlier this year on federal charges alleging

they willfully violated Floyd's rights. They were set to go to trial in late January.

Chauvin's plea could be a positive for the other three.

They had asked the court to separate their trials from Chauvin's, arguing that his presence would hurt them before a jury, but that request was denied. Mike Brandt, a local defense attorney

not connected to the case, said a trial without Chauvin could reduce some of the inflammatory evidence jurors would see.

Brandt has also said that if Chauvin pleads guilty, he

can be compelled to testify—which could benefit the others if he says he was the veteran officer who made the decision to do what he did.

The information sent out Monday gives no indication that the other officers intend to plead guilty. Messages left for their attorneys were not immediately returned.

Mark Osler, a professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, said any potential prison time that Chauvin would face in the federal case would likely be served at the same time as his state sentence—but the federal term has the potential to be much longer, up to life in prison.

## Jan. 7 sentencing set for men convicted in Arbery killing

**BRUNSWICK, Ga.** (AP)—A judge in coastal Georgia has set a sentencing date early next year for the three men convicted of murder in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael and their neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, are set to be sentenced Jan. 7, according to an order signed Monday by Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley. At the November trial, the three white men were convicted of murder and other crimes in the Feb. 23, 2020, killing of the 25-year-old Black man.

The McMichaels armed themselves and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after seeing him running in their neighborhood just outside the Georgia port city of Brunswick. Bryan hopped in his own truck and recorded video on his cellphone as he joined the pursuit, capturing the moments when Travis McMichael blasted Arbery with a shotgun.

A nine-count indictment charged the McMichaels and Bryan each with one count of malice murder, four counts of felony murder, two counts of aggravated assault, one count of false imprisonment and one count of criminal

attempt to commit false imprisonment.

Travis McMichael, 35, was convicted of all nine charges. Greg McMichael, 65, was convicted of all charges except malice murder. Bryan, 52, was convicted of three counts of felony murder and one count of aggravated assault, as well as false imprisonment and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment.

Malice and felony murder convictions both carry a minimum penalty of life in prison. The judge decides whether that comes with or without the possibility of parole.

Even if a chance of parole is granted, a person convicted of murder must serve 30 years before becoming eligible. Multiple murder convictions are merged for the purposes of sentencing.

Murder can also be punishable by death in Georgia if the killing meets certain criteria. Prosecutors chose not to seek the death penalty in the case of Arbery's slaying.

Each count of aggravated assault carries a prison term of at least one year but not more than 20 years. False imprisonment is punishable by a sentence of one to 10 years in prison.

# Asia



In this photo released by Indonesian Presidential Palace, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, left, talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second right, as U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Sung Kim, second left, and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, right, look on, during their meeting at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Dec. 13, 2021. AP

## Blinken: More US military might in Indo-Pacific area

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

—The United States will expand its military and economic relationships with partners in Asia to push back against China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday.

Blinken said the Biden administration is committed to maintaining peace and prosperity in the region and will do that by boosting U.S. alliances, forging new relationships and ensuring that the U.S. military maintains "its competitive edge."

"Threats are evolving, our security approach has to evolve with them. To do that, we will lean on our greatest strength: our alliances and

partnerships," Blinken said in a speech in Indonesia, outlining the administration's Indo-Pacific plans.

"We'll adopt a strategy that more closely weaves together all our instruments of national power—diplomacy, military, intelligence—with those of our allies and partners," he said. That will include linking U.S. and Asian defense industries, integrating supply chains and cooperating on technological innovation, he said.

"It's about reinforcing our strengths so we can keep the peace, as we have done in the region for decades," he said. He did not elaborate further but the administration made waves earlier this year by agreeing to a pact that will

see Australia produce nuclear-powered submarines.

Blinken insisted that the U.S. is not trying to force countries to choose between the United States and China or seeking conflict with China. But he laid out a litany of complaints about "Beijing's aggressive actions" from "Northeast Asia to Southeast Asia and from the Mekong River to the Pacific Islands."

Blinken is in Indonesia on the first leg of a week-long, three-nation tour of Southeast Asia that will also take him to Malaysia and Thailand. Countering China's growing aggressiveness in the region, particularly in the South China Sea, in Hong Kong and against Taiwan is prominent on his agenda.

### ASIA BRIEFS

#### 7.3 undersea quake in Indonesia triggers tsunami warning

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A magnitude 7.3 undersea earthquake struck off Indonesia's Flores Island on Tuesday, and the country's meteorological agency warned that tsunami waves are possible. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake hit at a depth of 18.5 kilometers (11.5 miles) under the sea, and was located 112 kilometers (74 miles) north of the town of Maumere, the second-largest on the island in East Nusa Tenggara province with a population of 85,000. National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said residents in the area felt the earthquake strongly. TV footage showed people running away from buildings that shook from the impact.

#### New Australian plant could make 100 million vaccines a year

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's government said Tuesday it plans to start making mRNA vaccines at home with a new plant that could produce up to 100 million doses each year. The announcement came as

coronavirus cases in Sydney and surrounding areas jumped, driven in part by the omicron variant. The new factory would be built in Victoria state in a partnership between vaccine manufacturer Moderna and the federal and state governments. It is expected to open by 2024. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said it was in the country's national interest to produce vaccines locally.

#### Gunmen kill 2, injure 12 in attack on police bus in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A gun attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Monday killed two police and wounded a dozen others, police said, hours after government forces killed two militants in a brief shootout. Gunmen sprayed with bullets a bus carrying police on the outskirts of Srinagar, the region's main city, wounding fourteen officers, the police said in a statement. It said the injured were evacuated to a hospital where two of them died. Reinforcements of police and soldiers cordoned off the area and launched a search for the attackers. No rebel group immediately claimed responsibility for the assault.

# World

## Booster blitz: UK races to get ahead of omicron surge

LONDON (AP)—Long lines formed Monday at vaccination centers across England as people heeded the government's call for all adults to get booster shots to protect themselves against the omicron variant, and as the U.K. recorded its first death of a patient infected with omicron.

In a televised announcement late Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said everyone 18 and up would be offered a third vaccine dose by Dec. 31—less than three weeks away, and a month ear-

lier than the previous target. Johnson said boosters would "reinforce our wall of vaccine protection" against an anticipated "tidal wave of omicron."

U.K. health authorities say omicron cases are doubling every two to three days in Britain, and that the variant will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days. Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers Monday that omicron will be dominant in London "within 48 hours."

While omicron is acknowledged to be much more trans-

missible than previous coronavirus variants, it's unclear both how virulent it is and whether the expected wave of infections will inundate the country's state-funded health care system

Barely two weeks after it was identified in South Africa, 10 people are in British hospitals with omicron-related COVID-19. The British government raised the country's coronavirus threat level on Sunday, warning that the rapid spread of omicron "adds an additional and rapidly increasing risk to the public and health care services."



People queue to go for coronavirus booster jabs at St Thomas' Hospital, backdropped by the scaffolded Elizabeth Tower, known as Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament, in London, Monday, Dec. 13, 2021. AP

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Pope says he'll meet with French sex abuse commission

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis agreed Monday to meet with the commission that published a ground-breaking report into clergy sexual abuse in the French Catholic Church and, separately, expressed "sadness" over the sudden downfall of the archbishop of Paris, according to French bishops who met with him. Archbishop Éric de Moulins-Beaufort, president of the French Bishops Conference, told reporters that Francis had agreed "in principle" to meet with the independent commission members but that a date had to be found. The head of the commission, Jean-Marc Sauvé, had said the members would be received by the pope.

#### Greece: 3 jailed pending trial for attack over virus checks

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—Court authorities in the northern Greek town of Katerini late Monday jailed three people pending trial over an attack on a high school principal by vigilantes opposing virus restrictions. Another eight suspects were released on condition that they present themselves regularly at a local police station, keep at least 400 meters (yards) away from schools and don't leave the country. The attack occurred Friday near Katerini, some 70 kilometers (43 miles) southwest of Thessaloniki. Police said a group of people grabbed and handcuffed the 61-year-old principal ahead of a daily COVID-19 entry check of students at the school and forced him into a car. They drove him to a precinct where they invited police to charge him with ostensibly breaching consti-

tutional freedoms. Instead, police detained the suspected vigilantes. No trial date was set.

#### New German government to revamp incentives for electric cars

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's new government said Monday it is extending the country's current incentive payments for buyers of electric and hybrid cars for a year but then plans to impose tougher requirements for vehicles to qualify for the support. The economy and climate ministry that was set up when Germany's new government took office last week said it will only provide payments starting in 2023 for "electric vehicles that demonstrably have a positive climate-protection effect." Meeting that requirement will be based, in part, on a minimum distance that cars can travel under electric power.

#### Report links Colombia police to deaths of 11 in protests

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian police killed at least 11 people during protests that broke out in September of last year, following the death of a taxi driver who was beaten to death while in police custody, a report backed by the United Nations found. The 182-page report published on Monday says that on Sept. 9-11, 2020, police in Colombia committed a "massacre" against civilians in low income neighborhoods. It says violence spun out of control because officers reacting to protests in front of police stations were unprepared to handle large crowds and were not given orders by their superiors to refrain from using firearms.

# Good Housekeeping



A children's bedroom is enhanced through the use of a graphic coverlet and colored throw.

## Dressing the bed

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Beds are meant to be comfortable and enhancing, gone are the days in which beds are just for function, these days "dressing the bed" is for some an art form, involving an array of pillows, lots of layers and texture.

### SELECT A DESIGN AESTHETIC

Modern or Traditional? What is your aesthetic? Once you know your own personal style and desire, this will provide direction as you select the perfect bedding. Traditional? Look for soft fabrics and small simple prints. More modern? Think of clean elements, such as piping or stripes and clean, graphic prints.



A twin bed is dressed with artwork that feels fresh, festive and fun.

### CREATE A MOOD

How do you want your bedroom space to make you feel? Do you want the space to feel warm and cozy or cool and tranquil? Whatever you choose, you are going to want to make the right selections, that will help set the right balance. Warm colors will help to make a space feel cozy, while cool colors, will create a feeling that is more tranquil and calm.



Crisp white bedding is contrasted with shades of blue/green.



A king bed is made luxurious through layering. Three layers, sheeting, coverlet and duvet cover complete the look.

### SAVE OR SPLURGE?

Pillows, pillows, pillows. Pillows are a designer secret weapon. They allow one to swap in and swap out color and texture instantly. Luxurious, high end pillows will add instant glam to nearly any bedroom. Sheetings are another area where you will want to splurge, in many instances, the quality of the sheeting will correspond with price point. Where can you save? Beyond the basics of sheeting and duvet covers, fringe items such as bed skirts and throws are where one could likely save.



Bedding featuring a simple piping, adds a sense of modernity.

### MUST HAVES

Where does one get started? When creating the ideal bed, think of layering. Essentials include sumptuous sheets, a good quality, quilted coverlet, followed by a high quality cotton duvet cover with duvet insert. Many designers recommend using flat sheets as opposed to a flat and fitted sheet. Top sheets should be one size larger than the mattress size in order to allow them to be sufficiently tucked into.



White on white bedding is through the use of textured velvet pillows.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

# Life & Style

## Time magazine's "Person of the Year" is Elon Musk



This photo provided by Time magazine shows Elon Musk on the cover of the magazine's Dec. 27 - Jan 3 double issue announcing Musk as their 2021 "Person of the Year." TIME VIA AP

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Calling him a “clown, genius, edgelord, visionary, industrialist, showman,” Time magazine has named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its Person of the Year for 2021.

Musk, who is also the founder and CEO space exploration company SpaceX, recently passed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos as the world’s wealthiest person as the rising price of Tesla pushed his net worth to around \$300 billion. He owns about 17% of Tesla’s stock, which sold for almost \$1,000 each on Monday.

Time cited the breadth of Musk’s endeavors, from his

founding of SpaceX in 2002, to his hand in the creation of the alternative energy company SolarCity in addition to Tesla, the most valuable car company in the world. The magazine emphasizes that its annual acknowledgement is not an award, but rather, “recognition of the person who had the most influence on the events of the year, for good or for ill.”

The magazine also noted the sway Musk holds over an army of loyal followers (and investors) on social media, where he skewers the powerful and also regulators attempting to keep in check

an executive that is far from traditional. Before his 66 million followers on Twitter, he offers outlandish assistance to the world and drives even his own followers and investors mad by roiling markets.

Though it only became profitable in recent years, Tesla is far and away the world’s most valuable car company, at one point this year crossing the \$1 trillion market capitalization threshold. Detroit heavyweights Ford and General Motors are worth less than \$200 billion combined.

Musk said last month that SpaceX will attempt to launch its futuristic, bullet-shaped

Starship to orbit in January. NASA has contracted with SpaceX to use Starship for delivering astronauts to the lunar surface as early as 2025. Musk said he plans to use the reusable ships to eventually land people on Mars.

Time highlighted Musk’s recent admission to his 66 million Twitter followers that half his tweets were “made on a porcelain throne.” In its profile of the provocative CEO, Time went on to chronicle one of those toilet tweet storms in detail before concluding: “This is the man who aspires to save our planet and get us a new one to inhabit.”

Miss America turns 100. Will she last another 100 years?

**UNCASVILLE, Conn.** (AP)—As Miss America turns 100, a major question remains unanswered: Is she still relevant?

The glitzy competition was born from a 1921 Atlantic City beauty contest, just a year after women were given the right to vote, and maintains a complicated presence in an American culture that has since undergone multiple waves of feminism. Participation and viewership has dropped since its 1960s heyday—when the next Miss America is crowned Thursday, her coronation will only be available to stream via NBC’s Peacock service, shunted from her primetime broadcast throne.

Faithful Miss America organizers and enthusiasts contend the annual ritual is here to stay and will keep changing with the times. And even though they may not have indeed devised a plan for world peace, many participants say the organization—billed as one of the largest providers of scholarship assistance to young women—has been life-altering, opening doors for them professionally and personally. And they believe others should have the same opportunities.

“I think that people have the wrong idea about what Miss America is all about because it’s not just about getting dressed up and being prim and proper and being perfect on stage,” said Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap, who graduated from college debt-free, founded a public relations firm and became a TV personality.

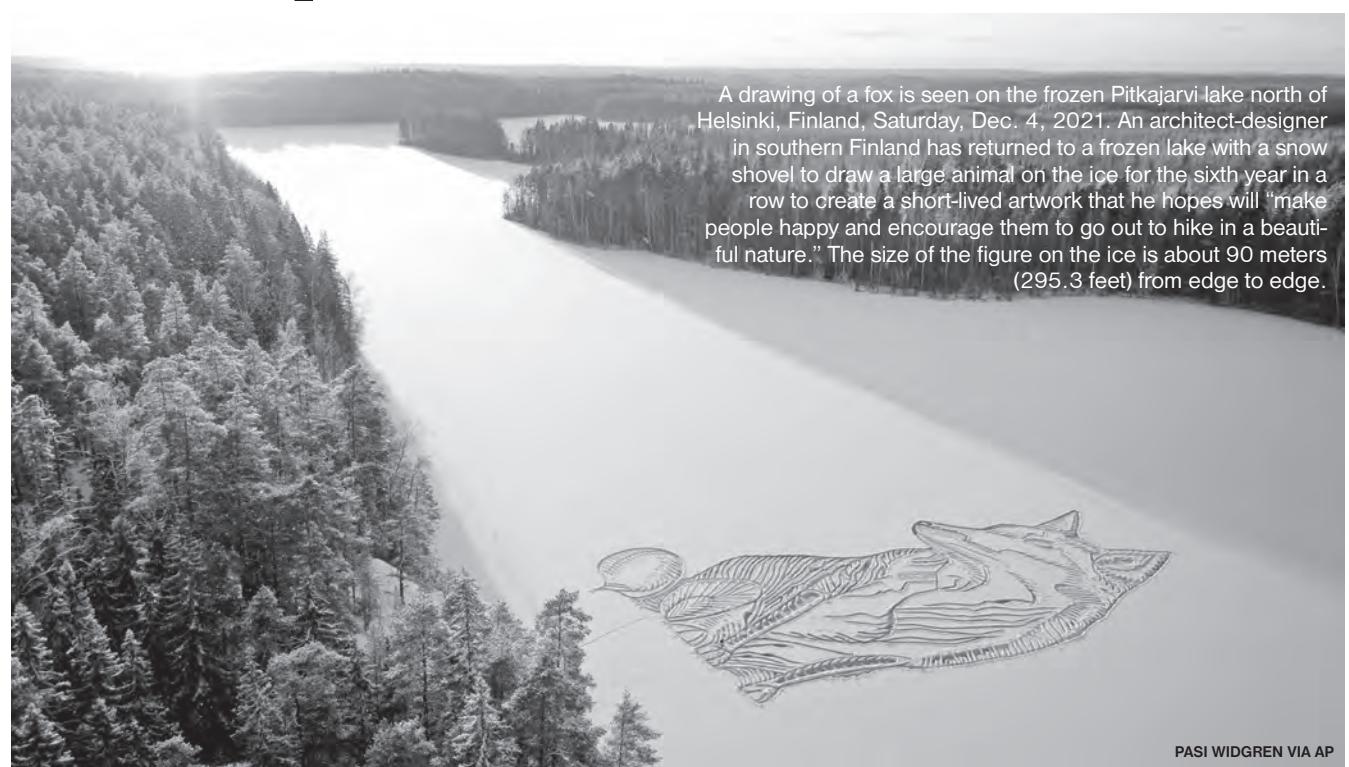
## Finland: Architect's ephemeral lake art a winter tradition

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** (AP)—An architect-designer in southern Finland has returned to a frozen lake with a snow shovel to draw a large animal on the ice for the sixth year in a row, creating an artwork that he hopes will “make people happy and encourage them to go out to hike in a beautiful nature.”

On Dec. 4, Pasi Widgren drew a fox that measures about 90 meters (295 feet) from on Lake Pitkajarvi, north of Helsinki. In previous years, he used a shovel to sketch a bear and an owl, always using the same lake as his canvas.

Widgren has drawn animals on local lakes every winter since 2016 near his home in a village not far from Lahti, a town of 120,000. The drawings disappear when more snow falls or when the ice melts.

The idea for the ephemeral art came “suddenly a couple of years ago when I realized



A drawing of a fox is seen on the frozen Pitkajarvi lake north of Helsinki, Finland, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. An architect-designer in southern Finland has returned to a frozen lake with a snow shovel to draw a large animal on the ice for the sixth year in a row to create a short-lived artwork that he hopes will “make people happy and encourage them to go out to hike in a beautiful nature.” The size of the figure on the ice is about 90 meters (295.3 feet) from edge to edge.

PASI WIDGREN VIA AP

I may have a special ability of coordination to do this kind of things myself,” the 40-year-old told The Associated Press.

When he reached Lake Pitkajarvi this month, he tested the thickness of the nice to make sure it was dense

enough to walk and work on. At 10-15 centimeters (4-6 inches) thick, it was.

“Of course, I had ice awls

with me, around my neck,” in case the ice cracked and he had to rescue himself, Widgren said.

## Couple deal with cracks in their relationship

**D**EAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for almost five years. We don’t live together but we see each other every other day. Recently we had an argument about him following girls who show their butts on Instagram. This is not the first time I have asked him to delete the pictures; it’s the third, actually.

Every time I call him on it, he claims he just scrolls through them, but he gets mad at the same time or insists he doesn’t pay any attention to them. He promises to unfollow them but never does. I also feel really insecure because when we first started seeing each other, he made a comment about wanting to pay to get my butt enhanced. What should I do?

BOTHERED BY BUTTS

**DEAR BOTHERED:** Perhaps you should spend less time looking at his cellphone. If your boyfriend is caring, faithful and treats you well, you may have to learn to deal with your insecurity. Many men look at pictures on the internet and it’s not a threat to their relationships.

That said, however, if your boyfriend’s ideal woman is one with a prominent posterior, you may not be The One for him. And regarding his comment about having yours enlarged—of course, that would be your choice, not his, so don’t be coerced. And, please, be aware that unless cosmetic surgery is done by

a board-certified physician, the results can be unfortunate. It’s also very expensive and the procedure is not “minor” surgery.

▪▪▪▪

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been together for 16 years and have two little boys. Since we were young we have wanted tattoos, but we couldn’t afford them and I couldn’t decide what kind I wanted. Recently, the subject came up again, and I decided I’d get one that symbolizes my motherhood.

At first, my husband seemed all for it, but then he started joking about where his name would go on it. I responded that his name would never be part of my tattoo because it would be about being a MOM. I also said I don’t plan to get a tattoo of him because, although I know we’ll grow old together, if something happened to him, I’d be stuck with it forever.

He was hurt by that remark and now thinks I’m questioning our future together. Mind you, his tattoo has nothing to do with me or our kids, and I’d never ask him to do that. Now he’s pushing me to “honor him” in a tattoo. I still feel strongly about the “mother” ink being my one and only. Should I add his name, or is a tattoo not the best route?

FEELING GUILTY IN TEXAS

**DEAR FEELING GUILTY:** What is driving your husband’s “push” was the foolish comment you made that you

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

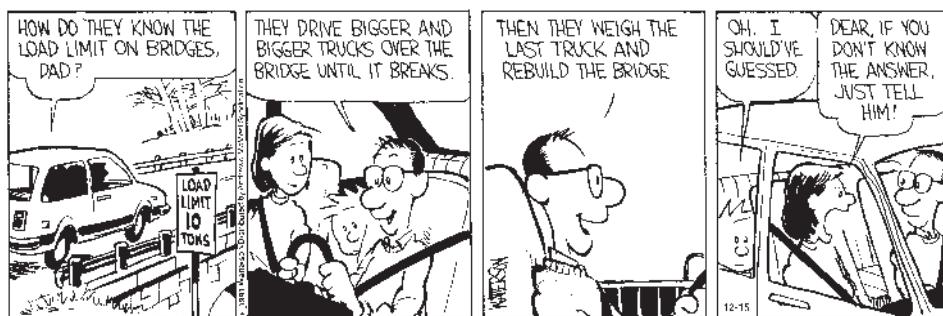
would feel “stuck” (pun intended?) if he died and you had to wear his name forever. I would hope that you “honor” your husband every day of your marriage and vice versa.

Someone’s name inked on your anatomy is no guarantee a relationship will last—living examples of which are the many celebrities who have had theirs removed or modified because their romances fizzled. If neither of you has gotten those tattoos yet, it would be better for your marriage if you both end this argument by skipping them.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

## Garfield®



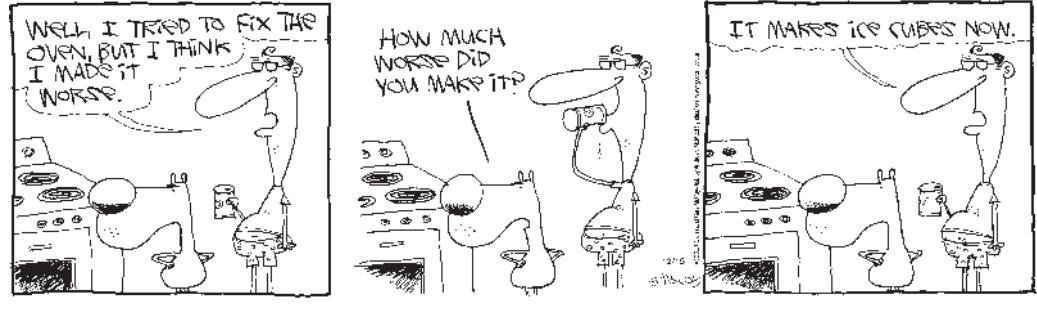
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



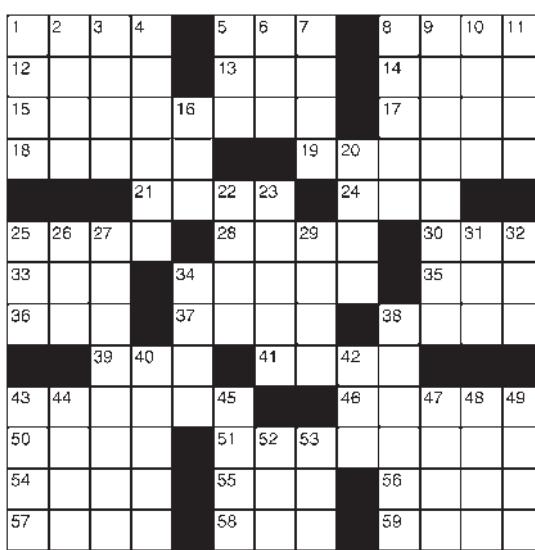
By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Work unit	58	Designer	20	Stratagem
1	Romanov	36	Chai, e.g.	monogram	22	Regret-
5	Movie	37	Morales	59	Kick back	tably
8	format	38	Capital	1	Perfume	23 Word list,
12	Online	39	on a fjord	2	by Dana	for short
13	auction	40	—	3	Bridge	25 Speck
14	site	41	-Magnon	4	Admin.	26 Ram's
15	Church	42	Rude	5	aide	mate
17	area	43	dude	6	27	Halloween
18	Shoe	44	In this	7	Wheeling's	symbol
19	width	45	manner	8	Costa —	29 Wheeling's
21	Valentine	46	Greek	9	Sol	river
24	border	47	storyteller	10	Churchill	31 Online
25	Staff	48	Bygone	11	gesture	address
26	symbol	49	Peruvian	12	Peruvians	32 Swelled
27	— la	50	Six-pack	13	Skilled	head
28	Douce"	51	units	14	Inventor	34 Corp.
29	Loosen	52	Slightly	15	Howe	kingpins
30	Wee	53	Montreal	16	Scanner	38 Mine
31	amounts	54	summer	17	targets	vehicle
32	Balkan	55	Iowa city	18	Pinnacle	40 Peruses
33	native	56	Pro votes	19	42 Scull	42 Scull
34	Mil.	57	Decom-	20	need	teller
35	morale	58	penses	21	43 Tale	44 Fasci-
36	booster	59	frame	22	44 Follow	nated by
37	25	60		23	45 Ditto"	
38	Owed	61		24	46 Till bills	
39	amount	62		25	47 "Hey!"	
40	Novelist	63		26	52 Roswell	
41	Anita	64		27	visitors	
42	30	65		28	53 Sushi	
43	Expected	66		29	choice	
44	33	67		30		
45	Hogwarts	68		31		
46	messen-	69		32		
47	ger	70				
48	34	71				
49	Secret	72				
50	store	73				

Yesterday's answer 12-15



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?****CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Michelle Dockery, 40; Adam Brody, 42; Julie Taymor, 69; Don Johnson, 72.

**Happy Birthday:** Reflect, and you'll come up with a plan that combines what makes you happy, a change of lifestyle, and heading in a direction that has meaning and brings you peace of mind. Make sure your decisions count and that they encourage you to live life your way and to maintain the integrity and feel-good mindset that promote a better future. Your numbers are 2, 13, 20, 26, 33, 42, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Reach out to someone who can offer information based on experience. Question anything that doesn't make sense to you. Don't take on the impossible or promise something you cannot deliver. Avoid risky physical encounters and people who ask for too much. **★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Put your energy into physical endeavors. Sum up your position and the path you intend to take before you proceed. A joint venture will end up costing more than anticipated. Don't pay for someone's mistake. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't share information that might jeopardize your reputation or career. Do your best to stay on top of trends so you don't fall behind. High energy coupled with dedication and discipline will pay off. Handle all responsibilities yourself. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Join forces with someone you trust and enjoy working alongside, and you'll come up with a unique way to expand your interests and

make a financial gain. Take pride in the way you look, and consider precautions to ensure bypassing a health risk. **★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Avoid jumping into something without doing some research first. Making an emotional move is a recipe for disaster that will result in reputation ramifications. Put your energy into taking care of your responsibilities before moving on to more pleasurable adventures. **★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change will make a difference. Learn from the experience, and you'll find a way to use your skills to open doors and excel. Be honest about the way you feel, and you will receive feedback that will encourage a wise decision. **★★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Limit your spending and avoid debt. Be innovative regarding family expenses and how you show others love. Sharing quality time and your intentions is plenty, and if those aren't enough, you may want to rethink your relationships. **★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you are waffling, sit tight. Mistakes will unfold when you haven't had time to think matters through thoroughly. Refuse to let anyone push you in a questionable direction. Pay more attention to personal gain, self-improvement and romancing someone you love. **★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen carefully, and you'll make better decisions. Don't feel rushed or let anyone push you in a direction that doesn't feel right. Focus on personal growth and a minimalist attitude when it

comes to expenditures and temptation. **★★★**

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pay attention to what's going on at home. Start a conversation, and discuss your feelings and intentions. How you approach someone you love will change the dynamics of your relationship. Listen to suggestions, and compromise when necessary. Romance is favored. **★★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Confusion will set in regarding your responsibilities and what you want to do. Pick up momentum, and organize your day to leave enough time for something that brings you joy. Taking care of your needs will keep you healthy and happy. **★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over your long-term plan, and implement trends that will help you reach your goal in record time. It's up to you to bring about change and to use your intelligence to get ahead. Share your intentions with someone you love. **★★★★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are dynamic, open-minded and imaginative. You are wise and intriguing.

• Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.



**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9	1	8			3	4
	4	7	3		8	1
			4		9	
			5	7	6	
			6			2
4	1	3			8	
9					7	
4	8	6			2	
			9	1		5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	6	5	8	1	2	3	4
3	2	4	7	6	9	5	8	1
5	8	1	4	2	3	9	6	7
4	5	7	6	3	8	1	9	2
8	9	2	1	4	7	6	5	3
6	1	3	2	9	5	4	7	8
1	3	8	9	5	4	7	2	6
7	6	9	8	1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	7	6	8	1	9

© 2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCOTTISH LANGUETINES

Solution: 7 letters

R G P L E O P O D S E A B E D  
N E N N A E C O E E L T D T F  
P E G I G N F S M A K I U N R  
E H P N D M O E A S C S B A E  
R G A H E A I E N U G L T S  
E R H A R V E S T I N G I X H  
O U T H R O A R S A K E N E S  
P B W A S H P C B W B W T C Y  
O R L C G E C S S O A U I N C  
D E M O L T L C H R G T C L A  
S S L A I I I A F P R N R E N C  
H A O S M M W I B A K E A R I  
E R O T P A S R L N P N E D L  
L F C I H B A T T E R E D G E  
L H A T C H A H D E L I O B D

© 2011 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/15  
Antennas, Atlantic, Bake, Battered, Boiled, Breeding, Claws, Coast, Cool, Creel, Delicacy, Dublin, Eggs, Extant, Firth, Flesh, Fraserburgh, Fresh, Grade, Harvesting, Hatch, Incubation, Knuckle, Larvae, Loch, Meat, Molt, Narrow, Nephrops, Ocean, Orange, Peel, Pereopods, Pleopods, Prawn, Sauté, Scampi, Scavenger, Seabed, Seas, Shell, Slim, Steamed, Thaw, Wash  
Yesterday's Answer: Healthy  
Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

# Cardinals stumble at home again in 30-23 loss to Rams

By JOHN MARSHALL  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Maybe the Arizona Cardinals should have stayed on the road. Home cooking doesn't seem to sit well with them.

Undefeated on the road, the Cardinals returned home the first time in a month and fell flat again Monday night, losing 30-23 to the Los Angeles Rams to tighten the NFC West race.

"We obviously have to play better in this stadium," Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "The crowd was incredible tonight. Great energy, thought our guys played with great energy, we just didn't play a clean enough game."

The road has treated Arizona well. The Cardinals had an NFL-best 10-2 record after beating Chicago last Sunday, their seventh road win including a 37-20 victory over the Rams on Oct. 3.

At home, Arizona (10-3) lost two of its first five, to Green Bay and Carolina. The home-field disadvantage reared its head again Monday night, allowing the Rams (9-4) to pull within a game of Arizona's division lead.

"We didn't play a clean game," said Cardinals receiver A.J. Green, who had seven catches for 102 yards to eclipse 10,000 for his career. "Penalties, turnovers, you can't do that against a good



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) is surrounded after he is unable to make a catch between Los Angeles Rams inside linebacker Ernest Jones (50), free safety Taylor Rapp (24), cornerback Darius Williams, second from right, and defensive back David Long (22) during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, in Glendale, Ariz. AP

team like the Rams."

Arizona's defense, fourth in scoring and fifth overall in the NFL, had no answer for Matthew Stafford or Cooper Kupp.

Stafford picked the Cardinals apart, throwing for 287 yards and three touchdowns on 23-of-30 passing. He hit Odell Beckham Jr. on a 2-yard TD in the second quarter and found Van Jefferson for a 52-yard score early in the third

quarter when the Cardinals had a mix-up in the secondary.

Stafford's best throw of the night might have been a 4-yard TD to Cupp, a perfectly placed quick out that had Arizona defensive back Marco Wilson throwing his helmet on the sideline in exasperation.

Kupp frustrated the Cardinals all night.

The NFL's leading receiver was quiet in the first game

against Arizona, catching five passes for 64 yards. He found plenty of open spaces in the rematch, finishing with a career-high 13 catches for 123 yards and a TD.

"We just have to tackle better," Cardinals defensive end Zach Allen said. "Obviously, they've got great players and a great coaching staff. It's not like they're a lousy team."

Arizona's offense spent the

night getting in its own way.

Kyler Murray, who threw for 268 yards and two TDs the first go-round with Los Angeles, put up big numbers to go with some big mistakes.

He threw for 383 yards and ran for 61 more, but had no touchdowns and a pair of interceptions. The two picks, both on tipped passes, were followed by Los Angeles touchdowns.

## NFL requiring coaches, team staff to get COVID-19 boosters

By ROB MAADDI  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL is requiring coaches, front-office staff and team personnel to receive a COVID-19 booster by Dec. 27.

In a memo sent to teams on Monday and obtained by The Associated Press, the league said: "Given the increased prevalence of the virus in our communities, our experts have recommended that we implement the CDC's recommendation."

The league's requirement extends to all Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals who have previously received the vaccine. Though players are in the Tier 1 designation along with coaches and trainers, the mandate doesn't apply to players because discussions with the NFL Players Association are ongoing.

The CDC recommends an individual who received a second Pfizer or Moderna shot to complete the primary vaccine series more than six months earlier should receive a booster shot. A person who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson shot more than

two months earlier should receive a booster shot.

The following do not have to meet the requirement:

■ An individual who is not eligible for a booster pursuant to the CDC definition.

■ An individual who is in the 90-day test holiday after a confirmed positive COVID-19 test under the league protocols.

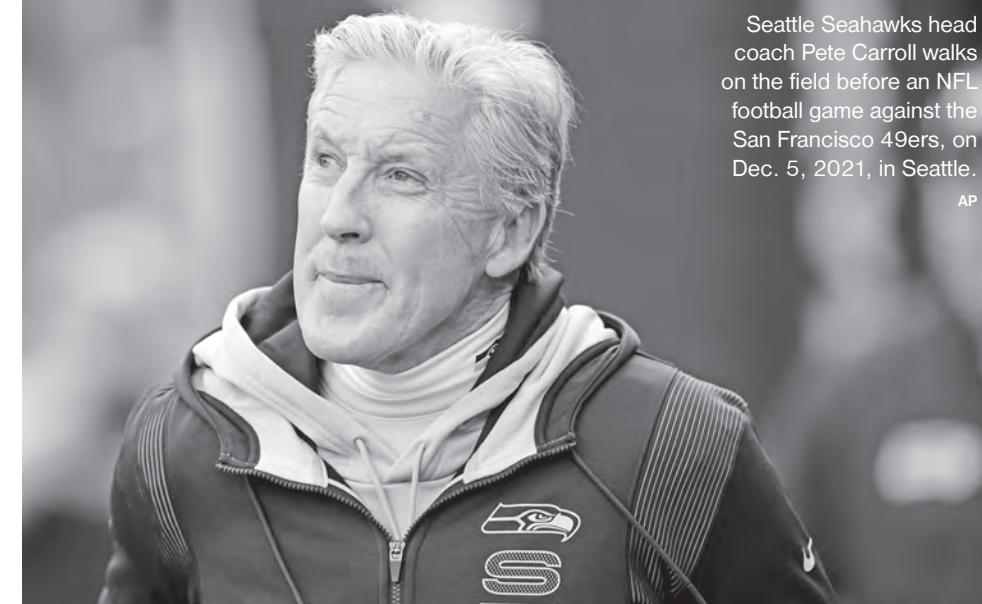
■ An individual who received monoclonal antibodies within the immediately preceding 90 days.

■ An individual whose "S" antibody level on an antibody test administered via BRL (BioReference Lab) at the club facility is 2500 or greater.

The league says anyone who is not currently subject to the requirement for boosters will be required to obtain the booster within 14 days of becoming eligible.

Teams were asked to provide booster shots to all eligible tiered staff as soon as possible, and to consider making booster shots available for player and staff families and cohabitants.

A season-high 36 players were placed on the league's



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll walks on the field before an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers, on Dec. 5, 2021, in Seattle. AP

COVID-19 list on Monday.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll addressed the possibility of players getting complacent about the virus.

"That's it. That's the whole issue worldwide," Carroll said. "People get fatigued from it. We just can't. We can't let that happen. Even though everybody is human and you get worn down by the reminders. It's stressful when you have to be continually reminded and thoughtful of

something that you wouldn't normally do. It wears on you, and we try to avoid it. We look for ways to get out of it. That's the conversation we hear all the time, that's the national clamor."

"It is about being diligent. Diligence comes from the constant reminders and the discipline that it takes to stick with it."

Last month, the NFL required players and staff to wear masks inside team facil-

ties regardless of vaccination status for a week, and ordered they be tested twice for COVID-19 after the Thanksgiving holiday. The league's protocols then were updated as a result of increasing rates of COVID-19 across the country. At the time, nearly 95% of NFL players were vaccinated, and almost 100% of NFL personnel were vaccinated.

The league has been conducting genetic sequencing tests on positive cases to de-

"Just a couple plays here and there," Murray said. "We fought, we were right there when we needed it, but we just didn't make those big plays we've been making."

Even with all the mistakes, Arizona had a final shot.

James Connor was the Cardinals' best offensive weapon all night, catching nine passes for 91 yards and scoring twice on the ground. His bulging 8-yard run through several tacklers pulled Arizona within 27-20 early in the fourth quarter.

After Matt Gay kicked a 33-yard field goal, Arizona's Matt Prater hit his third of the night, from 49 yards, to pull the Cardinals within seven.

The Cardinals got the play they needed, recovering the onside kick.

Then they went backward.

Murray had a 15-yard run negated by holding on Sean Harlow and a false start penalty on the next play forced Arizona to try a desperation heave into the end zone.

The Cardinals never got the chance. Murray evaded a couple of tacklers, but couldn't escape Aaron Donald, taking an 18-yard sack as time ran out.

"I thought we were going to go down there and score. That was the mindset," Green said. "We just kept shooting ourselves in the foot."

The good news: The Cardinals are on the road next week, at woeful Detroit.

termine exact strains of the virus. NFL medical director Allen Sills said in November such testing showed that one club had eight positive cases within a two-week span but each case was unrelated, meaning the individuals were exposed to the virus from someone outside the facility.

"That shows our protocols are working and they're doing what they're designed to do, which is to prevent the virus from spreading in an uncontrolled manner throughout teams," Sills said.

But the more recent numbers are alarming, particularly on Monday.

"Here we go, we're in the last month of the season and we've got a shot to make it through," Carroll said. "I don't know after today what's going to happen, but everybody has to continually be reminded. Stop griping about it. Stop griping about being healthy and helping other people be healthy. I don't get that. That's beyond me."

"It's so far away from personal rights. I don't get it. ... It's constant as anything we've ever been around. We just have to do a good job. I've got to do better. I have to remind guys more."

# Curry falls short of record, but leads Warriors past Pacers



INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Stephen Curry came up just short of Ray Allen's 3-point record Monday night. He still walked away with a win — and a smile.

The 33-year-old sharpshooting guard made five 3s, scored 26 points and rallied the Golden State Warriors to a 102-100 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

He's two treys short of surpassing Allen, something he's likely to do Tuesday night on the NBA's grandest stage, Madison Square Garden. Allen made 2,973 during his 18-year career. In Indianapolis, the near-sellout crowd was less interested in the final result than seeing history. Fans roared each time Curry lined up a 3, gasped when he drove to the basket and erupted each time he inched closer to Allen's mark.

For the final 90 seconds, everyone inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse was standing. Some stuck around to give the two-time MVP and three-time NBA champ a proper sendoff after he finished postgame interviews.

But this was not the indomitable Curry everyone expected. He missed his first three beyond the arc, finished 5 of 15 on 3s — and some were badly off the mark. Clearly, he was pressing. Even Warriors coach Steve Kerr noted Curry had been trying too hard over the past several games.

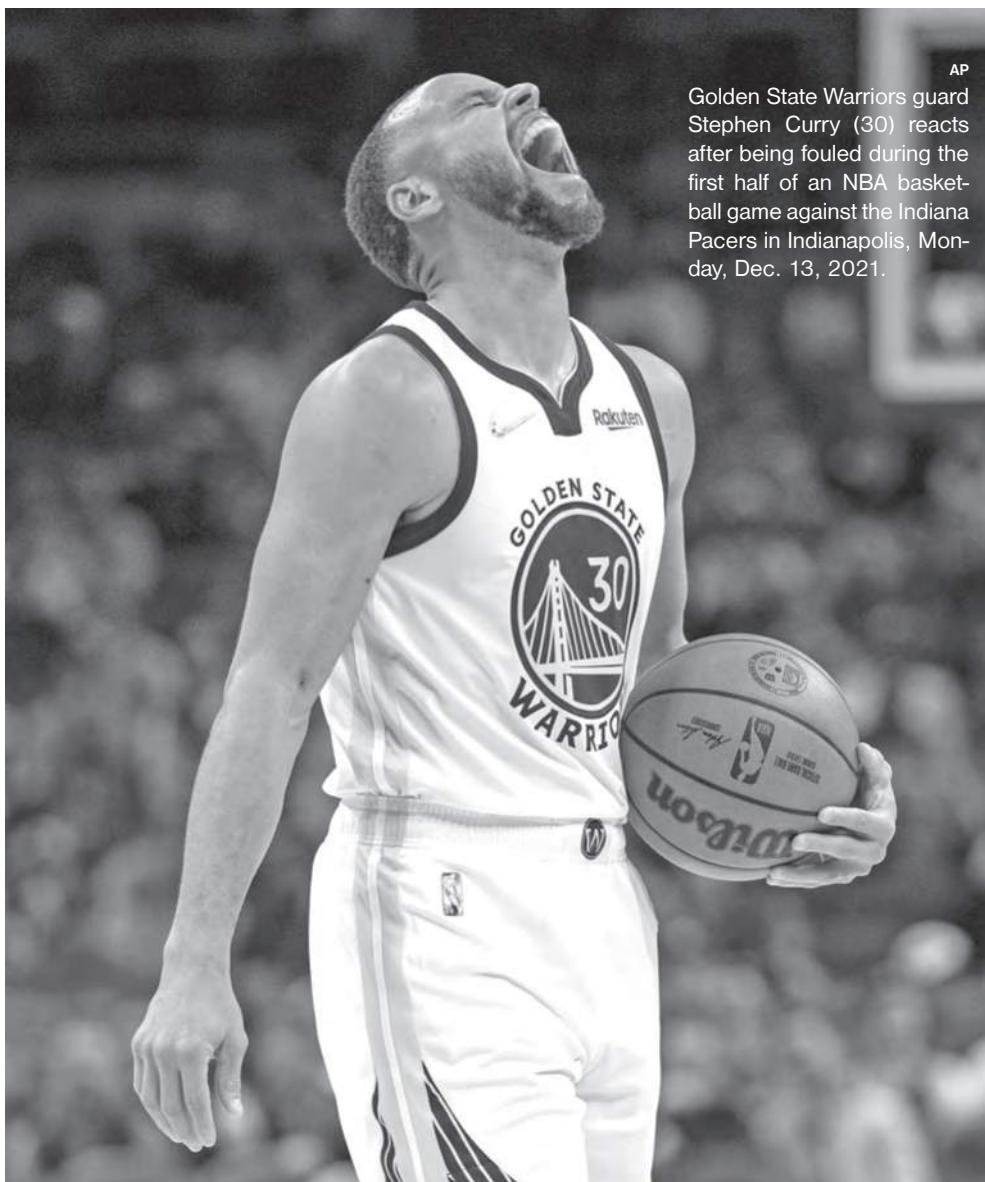
"I'm enjoying the moment, knocking on the doorstep. It's pretty surreal," Curry said. "You just keep playing basketball, taking shots you think you can make and enjoy the experience."

The Pacers defense made it awfully challenging. It constantly tried to run Curry and his teammates off the 3-point line and for most of the night it worked. Indiana, led by Domantas Sabonis' 30 points and 11 rebounds, just couldn't do it long enough to close out a fourth consecutive win..

"I know he was trying to get the record tonight and in my mind, I wasn't going to let him do it on our court," said Malcolm Brogdon, who had 23 points and eight assists. "When you slow him down, you expect to win the game. We slowed him down."

But Curry did just enough to win this one.

His final 3 got the Warriors within 100-98, and on the next possession, he decided against a 3 and drove for the tying layup with 48.5 seconds to go. Then, after getting a defensive stop, Curry had a chance at tying the record but it was off the mark and Kevon Looney



AP  
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts after being fouled during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, Monday, Dec. 13, 2021.

man team. He hit 14 of 22 shots, including five 3-pointers. John Collins scored 14 points and no one else had more than 12. Clint Capela did have 16 rebounds, but the Hawks were out-rebounded 56-47.

## Grizzlies 126, 76ers 91

In Memphis, Tenn., Dillon Brooks scored 23 points, Jaeron Jackson Jr. added 22 and Memphis shot better than 50% in a dominating win over Philadelphia.

De'Anthony Melton finished with 15 points and Tyus Jones made all but one of his seven shots in scoring 13 points for Memphis. The Grizzlies have won eight of nine.

Tyrese Maxey led the Sixers with 23 points, and Charles Bassey added 13. Shake Milton and Tobias Harris had 12 points each. Philadelphia played without center Joel Embiid, a late scratch with right rib soreness.

## Mavericks 120, Hornets 96

In Dallas, Kristaps Porzingis had 24 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks, and Dallas hit a season-high 19 3-pointers as the Mavericks routed the Charlotte to sweep a back-to-back without All-Star guard Luka Doncic.

Porzingis led the Mavericks (14-13) to a 70-43 halftime lead, securing his sixth double-double of the season with 22 points and 12 rebounds before the break. The 7-foot-3 Latvian played only eight minutes in the second half to finish with 25.

Trey Burke scored a season-high 22 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. had 19 off the bench for Dallas.

The Hornets, who opened a six-game road trip, their longest of the season, were led by Terry Rozier and Kelly Oubre Jr. with 20 points each.

## Nuggets 113, Wizards 107

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 19 rebounds and nine assists, and Denver built

a big lead before holding off Washington in coach Wes Unseld Jr.'s return to the Mile High City.

Jokic tied his season high for rebounds but missed out on his sixth triple-double when he was ejected midway through the fourth quarter. Monte Morris added 22 points for Denver.

Bradley Beal had 19 points and 10 assists, and Davis Bertans scored 21 off the bench for the Wizards.

Unseld was an assistant on Nuggets coach Michael Malone's staff from 2015-21 and was making his first trip back since taking the job in Washington last summer.

## Clippers 111, Suns 95

In Los Angeles, Marcus Morris had season highs of 24 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Los Angeles Clippers to a 111-95 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Monday night in the teams' first meeting since the Western Conference finals.

The Suns defeated the Clippers in six games last season to reach the NBA Finals, where they lost to Milwaukee. Phoenix has kept up the momentum this season, leading the West with a 21-5 record.

Both teams were missing their stars on Monday. The Suns were without Deandre Ayton and Devin Booker, while Paul George and Kawhi Leonard sat out for the Clippers.

Reggie Jackson added 19 points and Terance Mann had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Clippers, who won their fourth in a row.

Cam Johnson led Phoenix with 17 points off the bench. Mikal Bridges added 16 points. Chris Paul was held to nine points and eight assists against his former team.

The Suns' only lead came on the game's first basket by Jae Crowder. They missed 12 of 13 shots at the start while the Clippers built a 10-point lead. Crowder and JaVale McGee picked up two fouls apiece in the first quarter.

Phoenix was in pursuit the rest of the way.

## COVID issues prompt NBA to postpone Bulls' next 2 games

CHICAGO (AP) — The NBA postponed the Chicago Bulls' next two games on Monday, with 10 of the team's players in the league's health and safety protocols.

The Bulls were scheduled to host the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday and visit the Toronto Raptors on Thursday. No makeup dates were announced. The Bulls' next game is now scheduled for Sunday against the Los Angeles Lakers at home.

The team confirmed Monday that backup forward Alize Johnson became the 10th player to enter the protocols, joining a list that includes stars Zach LaVine and DeMar Derozan. Also on it are Troy Brown Jr., Matt Thomas, Coby White, Javonte Green, Derrick Jones Jr., Ayo Dosunmu and Stanley Johnson.

That left the Bulls with the eight available players, the league minimum to field a team. That list includes two

players on two-way contracts in Devon Dotson and Tyler Cook, another signed to a 10-day contract last week in Alfonzo McKinnie, and rookie Marko Simonovic, who has played most of the season in the G League.

Players in the health and safety protocols must be sidelined at least 10 days or record two negative COVID-19 tests in a 24-hour period before they can resume basketball activities.

# As Olympics open, Uyghurs set to take rights case to court

By STEPHEN WADE  
AP SPORTS WRITER

 China's treatment of its Uyghur minority could come before the courts in Argentina at about the same time that the Winter Olympics open on Feb. 4 in Beijing.

Michael Polak, a British lawyer representing the World Uyghur Congress and the Uyghur Human Rights Project, is

preparing a "universal jurisdiction criminal complaint" to submit to the criminal courts of Argentina in February.

"We think what we are doing in Argentina is the natural next step for moving towards justice," Polak told the Associated Press in an interview.

Last week, an unofficial body set up in Britain to assess evidence on China's alleged rights abuses against the Uyghur people concluded that the Chinese government committed genocide and crimes against humanity.

Additionally, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is expected to soon release a report on human rights in the Xinjiang region of northwestern China. In a statement, the U.N. said it had "similarly identified patterns of arbitrary detention, coercive labor practices and an erosion of social and cultural rights." It also said it had been unable to gain "unfettered access" to the region.

Argentina agreed last month to hear a case against the



Protesters rally against the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games on International Human Rights Day outside the TCL Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood district of Los Angeles on Dec. 10, 2021. AP

Myanmar military involving the treatment of the minority Rohingya under the principle of "universal jurisdiction." This principle holds that severe crimes can be tried in any jurisdiction.

"There are universal jurisdiction provisions in different

jurisdictions around the world," Polak said. "But the Argentinian one is the most realistic because the courts are actually able to use it. And they are very keen on using it because of their own history. Realistically, the aim would be to bring these people before the Argentinian

courts and for them to answer the allegations."

The internment of an estimated 1 million or more Uyghurs and other largely Muslim minorities—in what China described as vocational training and education centers—has also put the focus on China's

treatment of Tibetans, the loss of civil liberties in Hong Kong, and restrictions on use of the Mongolian language in China's Inner Mongolia region.

The U.S. government and parliaments in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada have declared that Beijing's policies against the Uyghurs amount to genocide and crimes against humanity.

"For the Uyghurs to swear their evidence in an Argentinian court is a huge moment," Polak said. "We think it is realistic that arrest warrants can be issued and people can be arrested."

During the tribunal, about 30 witnesses and experts gave evidence at a series of public hearings in central London earlier this year, alleging torture, forced abortions, rape and beatings by authorities while in state detention centers. The hearings also reviewed numerous documents detailing other policies including the separation of young children from their families and widespread destruction of mosques.

"The Guam folks and Guam co-riders were very cordial and made us feel like home. I endured the race and very much enjoyed the event. I would go back again and try the 100-km course next time. I like to thank Ricky, Jojo, and TRAC for inviting me and my wife, Marjorie, to join them in the TOG. We had so much fun. We also enjoyed the company of the rest of our team," he said.

Barbo said the Tour of Guam was a very good experience for the CNMI team. "Actually we don't expect anything. But it's so fun, considering that we didn't practice a lot before going to the Tour of Guam."

ald McDonald House Charities has helped over 38,000 families from the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, and Hawaii. It's not directly affiliated with McDonald's Corp. or any of its restaurants and relies heavily on the support of the community to continue delivering services for those in need.

to return to Palm Bay, Florida next week.

"It's refreshing to be back home and be surrounded by the culture I grew up in. Me and my family went full tourist mode and visited all the hi-vis areas such as Banzai Cliff, Mt. Tapochau, infinity pool, and more. Too many people to mention but we appreciate everyone who came out and spent time with us during our stay back home."

Cadua is currently stationed at Patrick Space Force Base.

## NBA STANDINGS

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	19	8	.704	—
Philadelphia	15	13	.536	4½
Boston	14	14	.500	5½
Toronto	13	14	.481	6
New York	12	15	.444	7

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	16	12	.571	—
Washington	15	13	.536	1
Charlotte	15	14	.517	1½
Atlanta	13	14	.481	2½
Orlando	5	23	.179	11

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	17	10	.630	—
Milwaukee	18	11	.621	—
Cleveland	17	12	.586	1
Indiana	12	17	.414	6
Detroit	4	22	.154	12½

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	17	11	.607	—
Dallas	14	13	.519	2½
San Antonio	10	16	.385	6
Houston	9	18	.333	7½
New Orleans	8	21	.276	9½

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	19	7	.731	—
Denver	14	13	.519	5½
Minnesota	12	15	.444	7½
Portland	11	16	.407	8½
Oklahoma City	8	18	.308	11

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	22	5	.815	—
Phoenix	21	5	.808	½
L.A. Clippers	16	12	.571	6½
L.A. Lakers	15	13	.536	7½
Sacramento	11	17	.393	11½

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	4	0	.692	350	200
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	363	229
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	226	397

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538
Houston	2	11	0	.154
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538
Pittsburgh	6	6	1	.500

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	9	4	0	.692
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.615
Denver	7	6	0	.538
Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	4	0	.692
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462
Washington	6	7	0	.462
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	10	3	0	.769
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462
New Orleans	6</			



As Olympics open, Uyghurs set to take rights case to court **PAGE 19**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

20 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021



Cardinals stumble at home again in 30-23 loss to Rams **PAGE 17**

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 9 from Saipan take part in Tour of Guam



Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation members pose for a group photo before taking part in last weekend's Tour of Guam that started and ended at the Guam Museum Park in Hagatna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation sent a nine-person delegation to the Tour of Guam 2021 that started and finished at the Guam Museum Park in Hagatna last weekend.

The CNMI team was led by NMICF officials Ricky Castro and Jay Diyco and also included Wilfredo Barbo, Cesar Fortaleza, Jojo Valencia, Nomer Mangalinao, Rowena Houk, and Dan and Marjorie Ganacias.

Of the nine, Fortaleza was the only one who tackled the 102-kilometer long course and finished 26th overall in a time of 4:01:00. The rest took part in the 42-km short course with Marjorie Ganacias coming in third in her women's 30-39 group with a time of 1:53:18.



The times of the rest of the CNMI cyclists were as follows: Mangalinao (1:33:43), Barbo (1:33:43), Valencia (1:38:34), Diyco (1:45:26), Dan Ganacias (2:00:12), and Houck (2:01:02). Castro joined more as a representative of NMICF and didn't have a time.

Marjorie Ganacias said getting third place in her group was a lovely surprise since it was her first time to take part in the Tour of Guam.

"It was my first time to par-  
See 9 FROM on Page 19

## Kamikaze cruises to win in senior flight

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

 Aziza Raven Ngilodonloze Camacho will have one very expensive gift this Christmas from daddy. This, after Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho took home first place and the \$500 cash that goes along with it by winning the seniors

flight of the inaugural Ronald McDonald House of Charities Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 60-year-old many time CNMI national golfer shot a 5-over par 77 to rule the division following a 40 in the front nine and a splendid 37 in the back.

"I had problems with the putting because normally I

play in the afternoons so I wasn't used to the putting conditions in the morning. But the course was pretty good and it's always good to support a tournament with a good cause," he said.

The Laolao Bay Golf & Resort golf pro said his best shot of the day was the same hole where he got closest to the pin. "Actually it was the hole I got closest to the pin

in hole No. 7. From 8 feet I three-putted again."

Camacho, who got his Kamikaze nickname from his wild days drag racing in Marpi, was also glad that tournament organizers split the senior group into two—senior and super seniors.

"The more people that play the better. It's also good because the field evens out given

See KAMIKAZE on Page 19



Senior flight champion Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, fourth from left, poses with, from left, tournament director Vicente "Ben" Babauta, McDonald's Guam and Saipan co-owner Marcia Ayuyu, third place William Maui, runner-up Anthony Benavente, and McDonald's Guam and Saipan owner Jose "Joe" Ayuyu during the awards banquet of the inaugural Ronald McDonald House of Charities Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

MARK RABAGO

## J.C. Cadua also completes 1st marathon

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Another Run Saipan member recently completed a 42-kilometer run and it just so happened that he's also vacationing on Saipan now.

J.C. Cadua, a Marianas High School alumnus, tackled the Florida Space Coast Marathon 2021 last Nov. 28 and completed the course in 4:48:08.

The 23-year-old member of the U.S. Air Force said like Jalen Lucido, the Florida Space Coast Marathon See J.C. CADUA on Page 19



Run Saipan member J.C. Cadua, right, took part in the Florida Space Coast Marathon 2021 last Nov. 28. Also in photo is his friend and running mate Ken Conol, who also completed the marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO